

Weekend

FINANCIAL TIMES

Weekend FT Living with nuclear mess

World Business Newspape



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WEEKEND APRIL 13/APRIL 14 1996

London bombing

A 26-year-old Irishman was being questioned by police in Dublin after a joint operation between British and Irish security forces in the wake of the RA's February bombing in London's Docklands.

The man was arrested after a hunt by Irish and UK police but the UK anti-terrorist squad was reluctant to confirm the arrest could be connected with the London bombing in which two people died. Page 4

Anglo offered Lourho chief's shares: UK conglomerate Lourho effectively handed potential future control of its mining interests to South Africa's biggest company, Anglo American Corporation, after Lourho's chief executive Dieter Bock gave Anglo the right to buy his remaining 18.4 per cent. Page 22 and Lex; Competitors covet Lourbo's

French group wins UK rail franchise: A French company is to receive a UK government subsidy of £350m (\$547.2m) over the next seven years to run the busy rail commuter network serving south London and the south coast. Page 4; A better way to run the railway, Page 9

US to return Okinawa land: Japan and the US announced plans to return land used for an air base on Oldnawa island to local residents, days before a summit between President Bill Clinton and Japan's prime minister Ryutaro Hashimoto. Page 3

Ciluten meets UK opposition leader: US president Bill Clinton met Britain's opposition Labour party leader Tony Blair in Washington as the ruling Conservative party's majority in Parijament was reduced to one after a by-election defeat.

Repair work 'caused Dusseldorf fire': The Düsseldorf airport fire in which 16 people died was caused when workmen used hot bitumen to repair a road over the departure lounge, German police said.

China hints at diverting US trade: China hinted it would switch its trade away from the US, and possibly towards Europe, if Washington continued to block its admission to the World Trade Organisation. Page 2

Deutsche Telekom, which will raise up to DM15bn (\$10bn) in November through Germany's Aggest share issue, denied reports that is preparing to make a bid for UK-based telecommunications group Cable and Wireless. Page 5; Lex, Page 22

Kohl to serve Jabe plant German char Helmut Kohl will meet senior ministers and party officials to agree plans for spending cuts, welfare changes and tax reforms as part of a programme to reduce the country's 4.14m jobless. Page 2

London shares regains

prospect of more take-

their poise, helped by the

over bids and relief that

Thursday's 70-point slide

in the Dow Jones indus-

closed up 22.9 points at 3,766.8, recouping losses made earlier in the week

after big falls on Wall

London stocks fight off Wall St gloom:

FT-SE 100 Index :trial average proved tem-purary. The FT-SE 100

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Street. Over the week. when Wall Street fell more than 200 points in three trading sessions, the FT-SE 100 gained 11.2 points. Page 19; World stocks, Page 17; Markets, Weekend FT, Page 18

China warned against political activism in Hong Kong, claiming it would damage the territory's prospects as an international trade and financial

US orders more ships to Liberts: The US ordered two more ships to head for West Africa to help in its widening military operation to rescue foreigners trapped by fighting in Liberia.

FT book award winners

Companies in this issue

The winners of the first Financial Times/Booz-Allen & milton Global Business Book Awards are Die Deutsche Bank, by Lother Gall, Gerald D. Feldman, Harold James, Carl-Ludwig Holtfrerich and Hans E. Büschg and Intellectualising Capability by Noboru Konno and lkujiro Nonaka. The awards are worth \$20,000 each.

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Man arrested after Ford spends probe into IRA's \$480m to take control of Mazda

By Michiyo Nakamato in Tokyo and Haig Simonian in London

Ford, the world's second biggest carmaker, is spending 952bn (\$480m) to raise its stake in Mazda to a controlling 33.4 per cent in the first case of a foreign company taking the wheel at a leading Japanese concern.

Officials at Ford and Mazda, Japan's fifth biggest carmaker, said the move would help to form the strongest carmaking alliance in the world.

Mr Henry Wallace, the Ford executive who has been Mazda's

vice-president for two years, will ecome president, making him the first foreigner to run a top Japanese company. Mr Yoshihiro Wada, Mazda's president since 1992, will take a largely ceremonial role as chairman.

Mr Wayne Booker, Ford's executive vice-president in charge of international operations, said the move was mainly designed to strengthen the two companies in Asia. Ford and Mazda last year announced a big manufacturing venture in Thailand, and Mr Booker suggested other deals might be in the offing. He said Ford's decision to raise

its stake from 25 per cent was partly driven by legal concerns, tered anti-trust berriers had the US company not taken effective control of Masda.

Mr Booker said Ford and Marda would now be able to work more closely on product development, component pur-chasing and manufacturing, and marketing and distribution but neither side has indicated precisely which projects they have in mind.

The deal, which marks the clearest demonstration to date of the pressures on Japanese indus-try, follows a troubled three years for Mazda. The company male consolidated pre-tax losses of Y37bn last year, an improvement on the previous year's Y47bn, and is expected to have avoided another loss in the financial year to March 31 only

because of asset sales.

Mr Shumpei Tsukahara, minister of international trade and industry, yesterday welcomed Ford's move and suggested the deal marked a profound political change from an era when foreign ownership of important sectors of the economy would have been

"It's a good story at a time when global economic relations are stepping in a new direction toward free and fair competition based on international rules," he

Officials at other Japanese car makers expressed concern that the closer links between Mazda and Ford could intensify competition and pose a greater threat in the home market. Some analysts predicted it could even pave the way for more foreign alliances with Japanese companies.

Mr Booker said the deal would

have little impact on Ford's own small front-wheel drive car operations, besed in the UK and which specialises in small and mid-sized front-wheel drive cars, and Ford's own specialist vehicle centre would remain "completely independent".

However, Ford's move highlights the growing trend of globalisation in the motor industry. Mazda will now be tied into Ford 2000, the US group's sweeping worldwide re-organisation.

> Mazda town greets outsider, Page 5; Lex, Page 22 claimed the main victim of the



Israel launches new raid on Beirut

By Mark Dennis in Kingst Shmona, Northern Israel

Israeli belicopters yesterday hit Beirut's southern suburbs for a second day, apparently wound-ing several Syrian soldiers in a serious escalation of the campaign against the Iranian-backed Hizbollah gnerrillas.

The Syrian government did not directly respond to the strike, but official radio broadcasts

fresh attacks would be the Middle East peace process.

Israel said its helicopters had

come under fire near Beirut, but did not confirm that it had hit Syrian soldiers - some of the country's estimated 35,000strong force based in Lebanon. However, witnesses said three Israeli helicopters had fired rockets into a Syrian antiaircraft position.

Together with other air strikes and an extensive artillery barrage in southern Lebanon, the attacks mark a deepening of the crisis along Israel's northern border. The Israeli move followed salvoes of rockets fired by Hizbollah, which said it was retaliating to earlier Israeli

attacks Apart from punishing Rizbollah, the attacks appear to be aimed at bolstering the image of Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli

Continued on Page 22

Swiss bank denies claim of 'blackmail' from rival

The bitter row between Switzerland's two largest banks, Union Bank of Switzerland and CS Holding, over CS's controver-sial proposal for exploratory merger talks intensified yesterday as CS Holding dismissed UBS charges of attempted blackmail.

CS Holding officials said their group was in no position to blackmall UBS directors in the run-up to the UBS shareholders' meeting next Tuesday, as it held only a very small number of UBS

On Thursday, UBS directors, who rejected the idea of a merger, suggested Mr Rainer Gut, chairman of CS Holding. had tried to threaten them by asking for a response to his proposal before the shareholders' meeting. It said this request indicated to them that CS Holding might have enough shares to tip the balance in a crucial vote at the meeting.

CS claimed yesterday that Mu Gut had merely suggested that an early response might be help-ful to the UBS board in its proxy fight with Mr Martin Ebner, its largest shareholder. CS officials suspected UBS had chosen to interpret its approach aggressively to win more public support for its board's positions.

UBS appeared to have made some progress, as the large Co-op supermarket chain revealed yesterday that shares held by its pension fund would be voted in favour of the board, even though he chief executive. Leuenberger, called UBS's perfor-

mance last year inadequate. Most Zurich bankers believe UBS will attract enough votes to secure the nomination of Mr Robert Studer, the outgoing chief executive, as chairman.

Mr Ebner coposes the nomination, but one of his associates appeared to admit defeat yesterday, saying that he would be

Continued on Page 22 Gambler out of luck, Page 9

Clinton nominates Kantor as new US commerce chief

Precident Bill Clinton vesterday announced that he would appoint Mr Mickey Kantor, the US trade representative, to the post of merce secretary. Mr Kantor would succeed Mr Ron Brown, who died with 34

others in an aircraft crash in Mr Kantor is an unexpected choice for the post. He is widely regarded as a negotiator and as someone who gets things done, rather than as a policymaker. If his nomination is approved by the Senate, he will have to man-

The appointment comes after a week of mourning, led by the president, for Mr Brown and his

age an unwieldy bureaucracy of

colleagues. Republicans in Congress have been criticised for their absence from the funeral and memorial services. Mr Brown, a past chairman of the Democratic party, was considered

by some to be a political figure.
It is not certain that the Senate would approve Mr Kantor's nomination. Republicans want to dismantle the department, which they consider a prime example of "corporate welfare".

Senator Robert Dole, the Republican party candidate for president, has led the battle against the department - some say more to shore up his conser-vative credentials than anything else - and he could carry that opposition into a nomination bat-tle. However, Mr Kantor has won wide respect among Republicans

of trade matters. Numerous proposals have been introduced in Congress over the years to combine the commerce department and the trade representative posts. It is possible a move to commerce by Mr Kantor

could signal the administration's

willingness to create a slimmed-

down department of trade and President Clinton also announced the appointment of Mr Franklin Raines as director of the Office of Management and Budget. Mr Raines was formerly vice-chairman of the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae).

Mr Raines will replace Ms Alice Rivlin when she becomes vice-chairman of the Federal Reserve.

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Russian rivals look to church

Yeltsin and Zyuganov become more devout as presidential poll nears

By John Thornhill in Moscow

Inside the nearly rebuilt Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow tomorrow, as Russia's Orthodox Christians celebrate Easter Sunday, President Boris Yeltsin will have one eye on the political souls of the

1,000-strong congregation.

Mr Yeltsin is due to be there to witness Patriarch Alexei II. the head of the Orthodox church, conduct the first Easter mass at the reconstructed cathedral, newly topped by a giant golden cross. since it was destroyed by the

Communists in 1931. Spiritual and secular power have always been closely intertwined in Russia and the issue of religion is again emerging as elections scheduled for June

Mr Yeltsin, a former Commu-

nist and atheist, will have leather jacket, he toured the had his interest in the religious well-being of the Orthodox church's holiest site, nation, with its millions of voters, buoyed by a similar enthusiasm shown by his chief rival, Mr Gennady Zyuganov, the Communist party's presidential candidate.

While Mr Yeltsin appears to have discovered religious belief late in life, he has enthusiastically re-introduced the Orthodox church into the ceremonial functions of the Russian state.

For example, Alexei II was on hand earlier this month to bless the closer union being forged between Russia and Belarus.

But the unlikely figure of Mr Zyuganov has also shed some of his ideological baggage, making strenuous efforts to woo the religious vote. Last Sunday, wearing a own conceptions of Russia as a

and talked with religious leaders for four hours.

In several interviews Mr Zyuganov has emphasised his spiritual beliefs, arguing that the communist ethic has a 2,000-year history stretching back to Jesus

Mr Zyuganov, whose particular brand of communism appears to owe more to Russian nationalism than Markist internationalism, has even taken up the cudgels on behalf of the Orthodox church, railing against the appearance of "foreign" priests on televi-

To Mr Zyuganov, the Russian Orthodox church's beliefs in its unique destiny seemingly chime well with his

great but distinctive world

In its 74-year reign the Communist party did its best to eradicate religion in Russia, killing thousands of priests and closing all but 21 of the 1,000 monasteries that dotted the country before the 1917 rev-

Indeed, it was an earlier party, Josef Stalin, who blew up the original Cathedral of Christ the Savier leader of the Communist in the nineteenth century to celebrate Russia's defeat of Napoleon, and turned the site into an open-air swimming

It would be an extraordinary turn of the historical wheel if a communist President Zyuganov were to preside over the ceremonies celebrating the completion of the cathedral in



yesterday before test flights at Zaukovsky airfield near Moscow

Li plays Europe off against US

China yesterday appeared to threaten to switch its trade away from the US, and possibly towards Europe, if Washington continued to block its admission to the World Trade Organisation.

Speaking to French industrialists in Paris, Mr Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, took a thinly-veiled swipe at the US. There is one superpower which does not wish to see China admitted without difficulty into the WTO.... If people persist in excluding China from the WTO, we will have no choice but to develop our bilateral trade relations." Mr Li told

merce and industry on the fourth day of a visit to France. "We have just bought 33 Air-bus," the Chinese premier said, referring to the contract signed on Wednesday with the European aircraft consortium.

Who can prevent the development of our bilateral commercial relations? No one," he con-However, Mr Li also responded to objections, chiefly by the US, that China was too protectionist to deserve the

trade liberalisation benefits of WTO membership. He promised China would take "energetic measures to

developing country. He pointed out Chinese tariffs had just been substantially reduced to an average of 23 per cent.

But Mr Li gave no date for the further tariff reduction which Chinese officials have already indicated might take several years. The recent cut in tariff levels from about 36 to 23 per cent was also accompanied by some new quotas on farm products and by less favourable tariff treatment for goods imported by foreign vestors in the country.

Mr Li appeared to be seeking to use France and Europe as a counterweight to the US in its foreign policy. In the wake of a

that nearly derailed an official dinner and the ceremonial signing of the Airbus contract. Mr Li said he hoped France and China would "resolve their divergences" so as to establish 'stable long-term relations".

China yesterday signed a further FFribn (\$190m) worth of contracts with French companies, mainly the purchase of FFre50m worth of oil from the Elf-Aquitaine oil company and a FFr250m contract for gas liq-uefaction technology from Gez de France. But Mr Bernard Pons, the

French transport minister, dis-closed that China had dropped plans to buy 28 electric locomo-

Franco-British company. "The Chinese thought our price was 50 per cent too high and are going to buy elsewhere," Mr Pons said.

Mr Serge Tchuruk, president of Alcatel-Alsthom, the French parent of the joint company, saw Mr Li on Thursday and said afterwards that negotiations were continuing.

French ministers yesterday hailed Mr Li's visit, which ends today with a trip to Airbus facilities in Toulouse, as a success for France, which has lagged behind other big Euro-pean countries in the Chinese market and accounts for only 1.9 per cent of China's imports.

EUROPEAN NEWS DIGEST

French prices rise sharply

French consumer prices shot sharply higher in March, giving the first hint in years that inflation, long-dormant in France,

It was the biggest month-on-month rise since January 1991, and though government officials and private economists said it was probably temporary, the surprise jump could have implications for monetary policy and economic growth. A French finance ministry official played down the rise. "The rise in March is largely due to seasonal and unusual factors and does not reflect an acceleration of underlying inflation, he said. Private economists said the jump in prices could be the result of a catch-up effect after crippling public sector strikes at the end of last year. David Buchan, Pa

Spanish inflation rate falls

Spain's annual inflation rate slowed sharply last month from 3.7 per cent to 3.4 per cent, the lowest for more than 25 years, the national statistics institute reported yesterday. The March increase of 0.4 per cent in consumer prices compared with 0.6 per cent in the same month last year. The reduction largely reflected a flat overall trend in food prices during the month. Mr Manuel Conthe, state secretary for the economy in the caretaker Socialist government, said the increase for the year might now fall within the official 3.5 per cent target. He predicted a further drop in April. The Bank of Spain, which anticipated the lower inflation with a surprise half-point

next Spanish government – even though Mr Aznar's centre-right Popular Party has yet to obtain enough pledges of support from regionalist groups to ensure parliament votes him into office. Mr Aznar, emerging from talks with the king yesterday, said he intended to form a government "in as short a time as possible". A date now has to be set for the

investiture vote, possibly in the last week of April. Yesterday's meeting conclude led the monarch's round o consultations with party leaders after elections six weeks ago which gave the PP its first victory but left it 20 seats short of a majority. The party concluded its first pact on Thursday with a Canary Island coalition which has four seats, and put forward fresh proposals to the Catalan Convergencia i Unió

group, whose 16 seats give it effective power.

The latest PP offer involves doubling the share of income tax revenues handled by regional governments to 30 per cent after a two-year transition. CiU said the proposal was insufficient, but greeted as "positive" the fact that the PP had made a firm offer.

The Dusseldorf airport fire in which 16 people died was caused when workmen used hot bitumen to repair a road over the departure lounge, German police said yesterday. The work at Germany's second largest airport to seal cracks in the road set light to PVC-covered cables causing a fireball that spread the blaze along almost half the 560-metre long departure and arrivals complex. Estimates suggest the cost to insurers will reach hundreds of millions of D-Marks. Peter Normon, Boron

US hopeful on Bosnia cash

US officials were optimistic yesterday that international from more than 50 countries attending the two-day conference will be announced today. Last December donors pledend \$500m

may be awaking. Consumer prices jumped between 0.6 per cent and 0.7 per cent in March from February, giving a year-on-year rise of 2.3 to 2.4 per cent, national statistics institute Insee said on Friday.

interest cut last week, vesterday maintained its benchmark

Aznar asked to form cabinet

King Juan Carlos has asked Mr José Maria Aznar to lead the

Repair work 'caused airport fire'

donors meeting in Brussels would pledge the outstanding \$1.2bn need for the joint EU/World Bank emergency reconstruction programme in Bosnia this year. The pledges of the \$1.8m needed for the first year. Harriet Martin, Brussels

ready to trim state spending By Peter Norman in Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl returns from his annual slimming holiday in Bad Hofgastein, Austria, today

Slimline Kohl

ready to begin the task of

slimming down Germany's

government. Tomorrow Mr Kohl meets senior ministers and party officials to agree plans for spending cuts, welfare changes and tax reforms as part of a ogramme to restore Germany's international competitiveness and cut its

4.14m jobless total.

Mr Kohl, has pledged to turn
the promises of the
government's 50-point plan to
revive the economy, agreed in
January, into a plan of action between now and parliament's summer break in July.

his particular, government must find ways of paring Germany's luxuriant welfare spending in order to cut the burden of contributions that adds to non-wage labour costs. It must reform inheritance, wealth and business taxes in ways that will encourage investment. And public expenditure must be cut sufficiently for Germany to bring its 1997 public deficit below the Maastricht treaty ceiling of 3 per cent of gross domestic product and so give the country a chance of qualifying for Europe's economic and monetary union

from January 1999. Such tasks are difficult in a nation with powerful vested

little evidence that the public or many politicians are prepared to accept a radical restructuring of Germany's "social market" economy in which more than 50 per cent of expenditure is carried out by the public sector. The chancellor's room for

manoeuvre will be further restricted by pledges he has made in recent weeks. In a television interview broadcast from his holiday home on Thursday night, he again ruled out any increase in value added tax from its current 15 per cent before the end of the present parliament in late 1998. He assured Germany's growing army of pensioners that their pensions, financed on a "pay as you go" basis by a shrinking working population, were secure. He promised to press on with the further development of the government's insurance scheme covering residential care for the elderly in spite of fears of rising costs.

Mr Kohl, who appeared combative and confident in the interview, signalled drastic and local authorities to fulfil the government's pledge of reducing public spending to 46 per cent of GDP by the end of the century. He gave no details, but Mr Theo Waigel, the finance minister, warned after talks with other ministers and officials on Thursday that there would be "no taboos".

Wage restraint and employment on agenda

Germans struggle with pay and jobs formula • Overtime bonuses are to be

German union leader confessed this week that he and colleagues had "tears in our eyes" when they accepted a deal giving building workers a pay rise of just 1.85 per cent. As long drawn-out wage negotiations ended in the early hours of Thursday, Mr Klaus

Wiesehügel, leader of the construction workers' union, made no secret that the settlement had not really been satisfactory from his point of view. But it was the best he could achieve in the circumstances. And in any case, he did much better in a separate disonte over a minimum wage for the industry. Here, the two sides agreed - pending approval by a national employ-ers' federation - on a mini-

mum hourly wage of DM18.60 (\$12.37) in western Germany. Set at such a high level, the minimum wage will succeed in its main goal of pricing cheap foreign labour out of the German labour market. Last month, chemical and

textile industry negotiators also agreed low wage increases a seemingly normal pattern at times of high unemploy-ment. But the deals have a new element. Now, employers are willing to offer job guarantees in return for wage rises that only keep up with inflation. This form of trade-off was precisely the idea behind the

IG Metall metalworkers' union, proposed last year. Ironically for Mr Zwickel, the

alliance for jobs has so far proved more successful in the chemical and textiles industries than in his own metal and engineering sector. Mr Werner Stumpfe, president-elect of Gesamtmetall. which represents metal indus-

try employers, last month pronounced the alliance for jobs "dead". If his view prevails, he will risk a difficult pay round with the union this autumn. A furning Mr Zwickel has already threatened strike action. But Mr Stumpfe's outburst is

widely seen as a political gaffe. In a television interview this week Chancellor Helmut Kohl said pointedly that "the alliance for jobs is not dead". He warned employers not to "set out on a march towards change of the traditional [wage negotiating | customs".

In this dispute, Mr Kohl firmly aligned himself with Mr Zwickel as the alliance for jobs has been the only jobs initiative to have captured the imag-ination of the German public. In this context Mr Kohl praised the wage deal in the chemical industry as exemplary. The agreement is an almost perfect implementation of Mr Zwickel's idea. Its main components are:

• A wage rise of 2 per cent, marginally higher than the

current rate of inflation. During the contract period.

abolished and overtime worked will have to be compensated with holidays within a month. The aim is to cut overtime as much as possible and replace it with flexible working hours.

 Both parties also agreed on a part-time scheme for older workers to ensure a smoother transition into retirement. All this differs from Mr Zwickel's proposal only in as much as his plans were even more far-reaching. Mr Zwicke

wanted to secure 330,000 new

jobs, and while he will not achieve this number, his approach has prevailed never-theless - for the first time, German trade unions are negotiating jobs and are willing to forgo wage rises in the process. Even more extreme was the settlement in the textile industry, a sector that has suffered a 30 per cent fall in employment over the last three years to about 250,000. Hoping to end the bleeding, the textile union accepted a 1.5 per cent pay rise in return for job guarantees. Companies in difficulties can postpone the wage rise for

another year. The textile union has also accepted one of the most flexible working time pacts in German industry. As a framework for this year's wage round the alliance for jobs is here to stay, and with the notable exception of the metal industry, German employers have so far proved

receptive. The old consensus politics

"alliance for jobs", which Mr Klaus Zwickel, president of the guarantee existing jobs. appears to be back again.

Conterence Wednesday 17 April 1996 Canning House, 2 Belgrave Square, London SW1 from 08.45 to 16.30 followed by a reception at the Argentine Embassy

Investment Opportunities

Argentina Mining:

Speakers:

Lic Carlos Magarinos, Argentine Secretary of Mining & Dr Miguel Angel Guerrero, Arguntine Director for Mining

- David Suratgar, Deputy Chairman, Morgan Grenfell ing J A Fillol Casas. "Borax: The Future after 90 years in Argentina'

Case Studies: MRM (Mount Iza Mines), "Bajo de la Alumbrera"

 Mincorp, "Cerro Vanguardia" FMC Lithium Corporation, "Proyecto FEND?"

 BHP, "Agua Rica" Northern Orlon, "A small company's view"

Carlos Magarinos will address the conference to outline measures taken by his government to promote investment security in the Argentine Mining sector. Other speakers will examine factors influencing mining investments and sources of finance illustrated by

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Old politics fails to fire young voters

With elections imminent, Italy's students are more interested in jobs than ideology



Apathy is palpable on the campus of central Italy's Perugia Univerting between Florence and Rome. "Neither my friends nor I have any faith that the elections will bring any real change to the world in which we have to live," says Livio Romano, a

20-year-old maths student. Such views are ITALIAN ELECTIONS just as much in evidence in Rome. Milan

April 21 and elsewhere among young voters. At Milan's prestigious private university, the Bocconi, where last year fewer than one in five voted in student elections, student leaders admit there is a high level of political indiffer-

This contrasts with the often highly politicised backgrounds of the students' parents. For instance Perugia draws the bulk of its student population from the city and the surrounding region of Umbria, which is a stronghold of the left. Indeed this part of Umbria is so tripled over the past two decades. But much a 'Red belt' that the right-wing since the late eighties youth

alliance headed by former premier Silvio Berlusconi is scarcely bothering to campaign here. The centre-left 'Olive 'Tree' alliance is expected to obtain another clean sweep of the seats in the first-past-the-post system.

Moreno Capporalini, the local organiser in Umbria for the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS), the dominant partner in the Olive Tree alliance, concedes there is a big generation gap developing between the political commitment of the older voters and the indifference of the young. Over the past month groups of 17 and 18-year-olds in their final year of school have been brought in for political briefings at the PDS headquarters, once belonging to

the old Communist party.
"We are worried that they have no curiosity or enthusiasm about politics and this election," says Mr Capporalini. This attitude is not a reflection of class or their parents' backgrounds - it's generational: the politicians don't grab their attention. We can only reach them

if we discuss specific issues like jobs." The percentage of the Italian labour force with degrees and diplomas has

which provokes serious interest among the young in this election.

The optimistic message on jobs conveyed by Mr Berlusconi and his ally Mr Gianfranco Fini of the right wing National Alliance (AN) appears to explain the predominant sentiment among students in favour of the right. "We don't necessarily believe what Fini and Berlusconi say but they seem to be talking more to us. The left still wants to give us lectures," commented Sandra Barone, a Perugia philosophy

The 1994 elections saw the youth vote cast heavily in favour of Mr Berlusconi's Forza Italia as a symbol of something new. But the Berluscon image has been tarmished by his brief nine months in government and by his increasingly subordinate role in the right-wing alliance. Most of the students who admit voting for Mr Berlusconi in 1994 say that - if they vote - they will transfer to Mr

Only two years ago Mr Fini was still

unemployment has risen alarmingly and is now running at 30 per cent. The jobless issue is crucial and the only one with personality than ideology. The dominant phrases are: "He looks confident on TV"; "He talks clearly"; "Never gets ruffled"; "Had nothing to do with Tagentopoli (the corruption condels)"

> Those between 18 and 25 account for 12 per cent of the electorate. If young voters do not abstain and stay with the right-wing alliance, it will have an important bearing on the result in the chamber of deputies. In 1994 Mr Berlusconi and his allies won a majority there but not in the senate. The vote in the senate favoured the centre-left, largely because senators are elected by those aged 25 and

> Once again this difference in the voting age between the two houses could produce a result where neither the left nor the right wing alliance is able to exercise majority control over both chambers.

> > Robert Graham and

Verona meeting hopes to kickstart new ERM

By Gillian Tett and Andrew Hi

The European Commission hopes preparations for a exchange rate nism will start soon future after this weekend's meeting of European Union finance ministers and central bank

eovernors. Speaking in Verona, officials said they believed that "a new wave of technical work" to examine the details of how any future system would work would receive approval at the

French officials are also confident they will be able to muster a sufficiently high level of support from the other EU countries to start serious preparations for a future ERM at this meeting.

Such views indicate the difficulties the UK Chancellor Kenneth Clarke may face in the discussion today about the future relations between the first group of participants in economic and monetary union, the so-called "ins", and the

rest, or "outs". The UK is likely to block anything that would force it to re-enter an ERM, although it accepts that there would be a need for a broader system to encourage convergence between the "ins" and "outs" of Emu.

The question of how convergence can be reinforced, however, is also likely to prove highly sensitive, after the Commission yesterday unveiled new proposals to put moral pressure on countries outside any future Emu to follow healthy economic practices

These proposals call for specific piedges that these countries will automatically take action to correct their domestic economic policies if their economies are failing to meet their convergence targets.

The Commission is not calling for fines to be imposed on countries which fall to meet the targets. However, it hopes that what Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the European commissioner, call would make it more difficult for countries to stray from convergence their

programmes. member states commit themselves to a new convergence programme, they should indicate the measures which will be put in place to correct any possible deviation from the plan," Mr De Silguy said yesterday in Verona. Brussels is also hoping to

make existing EU sanctions on excessive budget deficits more effective, by speeding up and clarifying the way in which they can be applied. "We start from the convergence programmes now and make them more

operational, more systematic, he added. The prospect of more effective EU powers to discipline wayward fiscal policies is likely to be greeted

with unease in some countries, &

particularly the UK. Meanwhile, Commission proposals for tax harmonisation are also likely to divide the EU countries. Mr Mario Monti, EU internal market commissioner, believes that he now has German and Belgium support for his proposals, and is hoping to use this to garner more backing today. The UK, however, is strongly opposed to the idea, insisting that tax should remain a domestic matter.

THE FINANCIAL TIMES
Published by The Financial Times (Europe)
GmbH. Nicelungsrophatz 3, 60348 Frankfurt am Main. Germany. Telephone ++49
69 156 830, Fax ++49 69 596 4481. Represented in Frankfart by J Walter Brand,
Wilhelm J. Brüssel, Colin A. Kennard an
Geschäfsführer und in London by David
C.M. Bell, Chaurman, and Alan C. Miller.
Deputy Chairman, Sharcholders of the
Financial Times (Europe) Ltd, London and
F.T. (Germany Advertising) Ltd, London.
Sharekolder of the above mentioned two
companies is: The Financial Times Limited,
Number One Southwark Bridge. London
SEI 9HL.
GERMANY:
Responsible for Advertising: Colin A. Ken-

Responsible for Astrevizing: Colin A. Kennard. Printer: Hürriyet International Verlassgesellschaft mbH. Admural-Rosendahlstrasse 3a, 63:63 Neu Isenburg ISSN 0174 7363. Responsible Editor: Richard Lambert. e/o The Financial Times Limited, Number One Southwark Bridge, London SEI 9HL.
FRANCE: Publishers Directors D. M.

PRANCE: Publishing Director: P. Maraviglia, 42 Rue La Boctie, 75008 PARIS, Telephone (01) 5376 8254, Fax (01) 5376 8253, Printer: S.A. Nord Eclair, 1521 Rue de Caire, F-59100 Roubais, Cedes, I. Editor: Richard Lambert, 15SN 1143-2753, Commission SWEDERIC, Physical Rev. 1550 1143-2753, Commission SWEDERIC

SWEDEN: Responsible Publisher: Hugh Carnegy 468 618 6088. Printer: AB Kvällstidningen Eapressen, PO Box 6007, S-550 06, Jonkörber O The Financial Times Limited 1996. O The Financial times Limited 1990. Editor: Richard Lambert, of The Financial Times Limited, Number One Southwark Bridge, London SEI 9RL



announced plans to return land occupied by an air base on the island of Okinawa to local residents, a gesture calculated to defuse local complaints against the largest concentration of US troops in

Japan.
The accord is deliberately timed a few days before next Wednesday's summit between Mr Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's prime minister, and US President Bill Clinton, at which they intend to reaffirm

their bilateral security pact, Japan and the US yesterday both sides of the Pacific as the foundation of security in east

> Mr Clinton said in Washington yesterday that the agreement addressed the "legitimate concerns the people of Okinawa have about noise levels [and] access to land. I hope we've got a good resolution here that will permit us to defend our own security interests and observe and pursue our interests in the northern Pacific and fulfil our commitments to our Japanese allies."

There will be no reduction in sion was an "important he 47,000 troops based in achievement" in reducing the the 47,000 troops based in Japan, of which 28,000 are in Okinawa. The facilities at Futenma, used by the marine corps, will be transferred to other sites on Okinawa and mainland Japan during the next five to seven years.

Mr Walter Mondale, US ambassador to Japan, stressed that the handover would not weaken US military capability in the region. He said the US security pact with Japan remained important and would be strengthened. Mr Hashimoto said the deci-

US presence in Okinawa. The island 1.000km south of Tokyo has long complained it is unfairly burdened with threequarters of US bases in Japan.

Okinawa saw some of the worst fighting on Japanese ter-ritory during the war, when a third of its civilian population dled. After the war, the island was requisitioned for bases and returned to Japanese sover-

eignty in 1972.

Local complaints flared up again and attracted widespread

the rape of a 12-year-old girl, for which three US servicemen have been convicted.

This sparked a rare national debate about desirability of the US military presence. It is one of the reasons for Mr Clinton's visit, originally planned for last November, when feelings were running at their highest, but delayed because of the US budget crisis. Futenma base, on the

south-west of the island, has been a particular focus of complaint because it is near a built-up area, including 16



Bargains galore

eekend shopping in ceries. Among the throngs which will pass through the territory's glitzy shopping mails and hotels today, some have a foreign house on their

things don't work out here."
This motive, however, has been losing much its force. "Most of those looking for a bolthole have already got one by now," says Mr Faulkner, "The real boom years were at the end of the 1980s and early 1990s when emigration was the driving force and you could sell a block of flats over the weekend and go home.'

But there is little cause for concern with the current state

the attractions of an overseas home lie in political considerations and Hong Kong's looming handover to China next year

s, such as central London But the tastes of Hong Kong property in places like India and the Philippines." For those drawn by the motherland. there is even the option of

what the advertisements

describe as the Beijing

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DIGEST

Vietnam warns China over oil

Vietnam yesterday implicitly warned China not to put obstacles in the way of plans to allow Conoco of the US explore for oil and gas in an area of the South China Sea claimed by both countries. "Vietnam has the right to explore and exploit resources in this area by itself or in co-operation with foreign countries," the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry said in a written statement. "Nobody has the right to interfere and

The statement followed one issued on Thursday by China's Foreign Ministry stating that Beijing "will never accept any exploration by any country or region in this area that would violate China's sovereignty."

PetroVietnam, Vietnam's state oil company, signed a business co-operation contract on Wednesday with a subsidiary of Houston-based Conoco, allowing it to operate in the same area where China awarded exploration rights to Denver-based Crestone Energy in 1992.

The Vietnamese statement said the area in question, designated Blocks 133 and 134 by Hanoi, lies on Vietnam's continental shelf and falls "totally" within the scope of its sovereignty and jurisdiction under international law. Conoco has reportedly indicated that it will await a settlement to the Sino-Vietnamese dispute before beginning to

US consumer prices up 0.4%

US inflation, as measured by the Labour Department's consumer price index, was 0.4 per cent in March, pushed up by higher prices for food, energy and apparel. The core rate, which eliminates the volatile food and energy sectors, rose by 0.3 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms.

The index held some good news for inflation hawks. Prices for medical goods rose a modest 0.3 per cent, and services prices, at 0.2 per cent, were half the rise of the previous month. Ecofax, the report issued by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell-C.J. Lawrence, said the current energy price rises are temporary and that "inflation pressures remain subdued".

A separate government report provided more encouragement on inflation. According to the Commerce Department, retail sales rose only 0.1 per cent in March, after a big 1.9 per cent rise in February. Durable goods sales were up 8.1 per cent for the year ending March, with car sales up 10.9 per cent. Nancy Durane, Washingt

Attack on Colombo harbour

against the Colombo harbour, damaging two ships. Two divers, strapped with explosives, entered the harbour and apparently targeted a liquid gas tanker.

rocket propelled grenades before the vessel was blown out of the water by a naval gunboat. An estimated 10 rebels died in

with insurance firms demanding higher premium for ships

Looting continues in Monrovia

nuen yestarday in Monrovia, where US forces are still evacuating foreign residents from the

Fighting broke out last week between rival factions of the fragile coalition government formed last year by Liberia's several war lords, who had signed a peace agreement in the Nigerian capital Abuja to try to end five years of civil war. tried to arrest by force a former member. Mr Roosevelt

property in Monrovia was among the targets raided by armed rebels. The soldiers say they have been unable to restore order Paul Adams, Lagos

Kim set to gain from poll outcome

By John Burton in Seoul

It may not have been a ringing endorsement, but South Kor-ean President Kim Young-sam has much to cheer about after Thursday's general election. Results released yesterday have given Mr Kim several important political advantages allowing him to pursue economic and political reforms, while adopting a more conciliatory policy towards North

Although the ruling New Korea party narrowly lost its parliamentary majority, secur-ing 139 of the 299 seats in the National Assembly, observers expect the centre-right government will easily recruit most of the 16 independent assembly members to maintain control before the new session opens late next month.

In contrast, the opposition is deeply divided between the centre-left National Congress for New Politics and the conservative United Liberal Democrats. Devastating losses for the minor moderate Democratic party might persuade it to join the government.

Equally important, the election has allowed Mr Kim to consolidate his control over the ruling party, which had been split between his minority moderate faction and a majority of conservative supporters affiliated with the former military government. Candidates supporting Mr Kim's faction were elected to

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e that

almost two-thirds of the roling party's seats. The combination of both internal and external political opposition has put a brake on Mr Kim's plans to deregulate the state-dominated economy as Korea prepares to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

later this year. The results will make it ensier for Mr Kim to accelerate reforms demanded by the OECD member states. The election came as Korean officials discussed efforts with the OECD to promote capital liberalisation, regarded as the singie biggest obstacle to Seoul's entry into the club of industrialised nations.

Fears of a conservative backlash had prompted Mr Kim to adopt a hard-line policy toward North Korea ahead of the gen-

North Korea's recent decision to abandon the 1953 armistice agreement that ended the Korean war is seen by some analysts as a protest by Pyongyang against the lack of progress in its relations with the US as well as South Korea. Mr Kim may now be in a

stronger position to compromise on the North Korean issue when he meets US President Bill Clinton on the South Korean resort island of Cheju next week. The South Korean government had disagreed with attempts by Washington to improve ties gradually with Pyongyang.
The election also indicates

that the ruling party is in a stronger position to win next year's presidential campaign. The New Korea party received the highest amount of votes, at 39 per cent, and performed well in most areas of the country. Support for the opposition parties was mainly confined to their traditional regional bas-

Having gained firm control of the ruling party, Mr Kim, who is constitutionally barred from seeking a second term, is now in a better position to hand-pick his successor.

One name being mentioned is Mr Lee Hoi-chang, a former prime minister, who managed the ruling party's parliamen-

tary campaign.

President Kim must also feel personal satisfaction that the election appears to have ended the presidential bopes of his long-time political rival, Mr Kim Dac-jung, the main opposition leader, who failed to secure a parliamentary seat. The two have feuded hitterly

HK warned against political activism China yesterday warned

against political activism in Hong Kong, claiming it would damage the territory's pros-pects as an international trade and financial centre.

"Hong Kong people will not be willing to see Hong Kong become a centre for political struggles," said Mr Zhou Nan, head of the territory's branch

of Kinhua news agency, China's de facto embassy.

He said Hong Kong should remain a centre for business rather than politics, and expressed optimism for the territory's economic development after it is "unshackled from colonial rule".

The comments came amid serious strain between Britain and Beijing over Hong Kong's bandover to China next year, and as Beijing's top official on Hong Kong is visiting the territory for consultations about political institutions concerning the transition Britain and local democratic

politicians have condemned Beijing's plans to replace the legislature which was elected last year. Britain and China had failed to agree on electoral rules for a Legislative Council which would span Hong Kong's handover. The dispute over the legisla

ture has raised fears of a difficult transition. However, senior industrialists and busi-ness leaders attending a conference yesterday expressed confidence about the handover and the territory's ability to develop as a trade and financial centre.
Addressing the conference,

Mr Lu Ping, head of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs office and China's senior official on Hong Kong, sought to allay warries about nationality and travel issues. He said Beijing would take a flexible stance and leave it up to returning emigrants whether to declare foreign or Chinese nationality. The issue is of concern to



Kong to live and work but who have acquired foreign nationalimportant in meintaining the territory's role as

centre. The speech was welcomed by the pro-business Liberal party, although diplomats noted that it left unresolved uncertainties relating to right of abode in Hong Kong and qualification for Chinese nationality.

Mr Lu is in Hong Kong for consultations about the formation of a 400-member selection committee. The body will set many overseas Chinese who up the provisional legislature may want to return to Hong and nominate the future chief

executive, the post-colonial

Both Mr Lu and Mr Zhou expressed commitment to the "one country, two systems" formula which underpins the handover intended to ensure autonomy for Hong Kong.

Mr Lu said that the consultations with grassroots organisa-tions and individuals during the next few days demonstrated China's responsiveness to local views.

However, members of the Democratic Party, the largest element in the legislature, had their invitations to the consultations withdrawn.

in the foreign home department

Hong Kong means a lot more than gro-

"Sometimes it takes them a few days to decide, but they can also buy on the spot," says Mr Louis Li, director of Rubicon Properties. His company has information on display about 65 units in the English university town of Cambridge. In another presentation nearby, customers can browse condominiums in Canada

The success of off-the-peg property. sales – in which many dwellings are snapped up during the weekend exhibi-tions – reflects Hong Kong's twin obsessions with shopping and property and the dispos-able wealth of many of its inhabitants. And in land-scarce Hong Kong, even up-market developments in London's smart Kensington area or in downtown Vancouver are a relative steal

The condos on offer in Vancouver cost about HK\$1,700 (US\$219.80) per square foot. By contrast, Mr David Faulkner, pariner at Brooke Hillier Parker, estimates that a flat in one of Hong Kong's smarter residential areas would cost HK\$6,000 per square foot. The £500,000 being asked for a penthouse in London's expensive Chelsea area would not get you very far up an apartment block

on Hong Kong island. In some cases, the attractions of an overseas home lie in political considerations and Hong Kong's looming handover to China next year. "We have clients who want to shift. assets overseas as a precaution," says one property agent. "And for some it provides the option of somewhere to live if In some cases.

of the market. "Demand con tinues to be strong," says Mr Peter Murray, director of Col-liers Jardine. The steady accumulation of red "sold" stickers on the board of available apartments in a hotel showroom at one recent exhibition showed the level of inter-

Hong Kong remains the biggest market for overseas UK property sales, although Singapore runs it close in certain clients have become more diverse. "The big markets, such as Australia, the UK and Canada are still popular," says one real estate agent. "But now you are seeing demand for

Tamil Tiger guerrillas yesterday staged a suicide attack

A Singapore car carrier, the MV Singa Aca, also suffered a morter attack and eight cars on the top deck were damaged by the blast. The vessel was coming from Singapore and on its way to Oman after discharging a small load of cars in A crew member of the Singa Ace said a rebel boat fired

the failed attack. Shipping sources said that freight costs were likely to rise

calling at Colombo after the attack. The government, which is hoping to turn Colombo into a regional shipping hub, assured international

shipping lines that security would be tightened at the port. Asnal Jayasinghe, Colombo

war-stricken Liberian capital.

The agreement collapsed when rival members of the coalition Johnson, leader of the Ulimo-J faction. There was no intervention in Monrovia by the large West African peace-keeping force yesterday as a United Nations

Founding Fathers beat another firebrand generation

Washington ways and a prospective election have tamed the freshmen of the Republican revolution, writes Patti Waldmeir

Congress, were vetoed by President Clinton (welfare reform,

and tax cuts). The freshmen

evolution? We don't frightens them. So most fresh-K use that word any-more." For Congressman Joe Scarborough of Florida and the other enfants terribles of the 1994 Republican revolution, the change of rhetoric is all part of growing up in the ways of Washington.

On Monday, he and the other 72 "freshmen" Republican Congressmen elected 18 months ago will return to the capital from their Easter recess. They will look neither so young nor so terrible as when they stormed Capitol

The realities of Capitol politics had already done much to tame the freshmen, and now the desire for re-election is completing that process. Talk of revolution may have excited voters in 1994 but today it

men have stopped pushing it. Some still use the word, but when they do, they use a quali-fying adjective, like "slow" or "measured". Or they drop the first letter altogether and speak sagely of "evolution". Mr JC Watts, freshman Congressman from Oklahoma and for-mer professional footballer, draws analogies from the American game: "You can throw a 90-yard pass, and get a touchdown in 7 or 8 seconds, or you can get three yards here and five yards there, and eventually score after 16 or 17 plays. But you get the same six points for both of 'em." Unfortunately for their re-election prospects, the freshmen did not promise voters a steady drive to the goal: they guaranteed a big touchdown pass.

Congressman Scarborough, the freshman class political director, reflects on the obstacles they met on the way: "It took us several months to come to grips with the fact that the House [of Representatives] and the Senate are really very different creatures," he explains. The Senate was designed by the Founding never had a Contract with America (the legislative mani-

Fathers to cool the ardour of an impetuous House, and it Unlike the House, the Senate the bible of House freshmen). Sitting senators prevented the freshmen from fulfilling some Contract promises (like the cherished balanced budget

amendment); other Contract

were left with a paltry legislative record on which to campaign for re-election. That will affect more than a few fresh-faced and fierce young politicians. The outcome of the 1996 election as a whole will turn to a great degree on the fate of the freshmen. Democrats are targeting the 47 firstterm Republicans elected with

nance of the House. Congressman Charlie Bass a freshman with a fine political pedigree (his father served in Congress, his grandfather was governor of New Hampshire,

55 per cent or less of the vote;

if more than half of those fail

to be re-elected, it could spell

the end of Republican domi-

helped run Ahraham Lincoln's election campaign) - plans to counter the charge that he and his classmates have failed to deliver the revolution.

"The Contract promised that Congress would take up all the hie issues of the late 20th century, it did not say we would do all of it," he says, arguing that it was the presidential veto which stopped the revolt. Congressman Bass believes voters will punish Mr Clinton and not the freshmen. Political scientist Mr Nor-

man Ornstein doubts this: "The bulk of the freshmen had this tremendous hubris coming in. They believed they could bring Clinton to his knees. They believed... that the voters so ardently wanted a baland his great-great-grandfather ernment that they would

pen. When their confrontation with the White House over the balanced budget led to a government shutdown late last year, the freshmen were blamed for it. Their standing has never recovered. Most have been, in the words

ding Fathers. against the wall every morning and say: 'Why isn't everyone

applaud them for going to the for a balanced budget in sever wall over it." That did not hapgreater respect for the system," he adds. "We are part of a process which works, and which doesn't allow any one body to bring about a revolution on its own. The system demands revolution, it has to start as an evolution and take more than two years to complete. And it requires a Senate and a Presi-

dent who go along. But for the moment, it requires most of all the re-election of the freshmen. And there is nothing like an election to tame a revolution.

Carmakers to work for transatlantic standards

By Heig Simonian, Motor Industry Correspondent

Officials from US and European motor industries have agreed to try to harmonise standards and certification to boost car trade across the

Atlantic. After two days of talks in Washington, car industry executives set a timetable to start harmonising rules on environmental matters, such as noise and exhaust emissions, by

November 1996. This would be followed with recommendations for mutual recognition of items, such as safety belts and seating systems by November 1997 and a commitment to examine add cost, time and complexity

rules on anti-theft systems, crash protection and bumpers. The participants said: "Auto-

mobile manufacturers on both sides of the Atlantic have taken seriously the task of creating a road map for barmonisation and will work diligently with their respective governments to provide necessary support for achieving har-

A number of leading carmakers have blamed the lack of common standards for adding to the cost of motor vehicles and impeding rationalisation in the motor industry. Mr Alex Trotman, the chairman of Ford, recently said that unique local requirements

to operating around the By Nancy Dunne world...they're certainly a major roadblock to free trade in a business environment that demands global competition." Mr Martin Bangemann, the European Union's industry

commissioner, said common standards could reduce the cost of a car by up to 10 per cent. As a first step, he suggested national recognition of another country's standards, provided they were of "functional equivalence", with subsequent moves to produce a common set of standards.

"These are issues that we think are extraordinarily important," Ms Mary Good, the acting US commerce secretary. said after the meeting.

US sees victory in Japan car market

trade policy.

The US administration in US vehicle and vehicle parts yesterday declared a victory for its aggressive drive to open Janan's car and car parts market and its "results-oriented"

The White House has produced an upbeat status report on the controversial automotive trade arrangements signed with Japan last June. President Bill Clinton, accompanied by industry officials, was yesterday due to release the report, amid much fanfare to attract the attention of big industrial states vital to Mr

Clinton's re-election campaign.

The report shows a drop in

US car imports from 17.7m in 1992 to 11.4m last year. In the same period workers employed manufacturing rose from

yen and the practice of moving production to big markets. Exports from Chrysler, GM and Ford to Japan rose 215 per cent between 1992 and 1995.

813,000 to 933,000. Many ana-

lysts believe the shift was inev-

itable because of the strong

although they started from a tiny base. Exports of US parts to Japan jumped 80 per cent. The report notes that many US parts companies that were previously unsuccessful in Japan are reporting "significant new contracts and sales

of Congressman Scarborough, educated in the ways of Washington". For bim, that means appreciating the checks and balances created by the Foun-"I no longer bang my head

URGENT CLEARANCE OF LIQUIDATORS' CENTRAL DEPOSITORY **AUCTION WITHOUT RESERVE** Irrevocable Termination of Occupancy License with immediate Vacation Clause requires Urgent Liquidation of

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French company wins rail franchise

By Robert Rice in London

A French company is to receive a UK government subsidy of £360m (\$547.20m) over the next seven years to run the busy rail commuter network serving south London and the south coast.

CGEA Group, a transport subsidiary of Générale Des Eaux, the French utility, which yesterday was awarded a seven-year franchise to run Network SouthCentral, is the first continental European company to become involved in running Britain's railway.

Although only the fifth of the 25 passenger rail franchises to be sold, the sale was seized on by Sir George Young, the UK transport secretary, as proof that privatisation had not been derailed by the announcement two days ago by Mr Roger Salmon, the franchising director, that he was stepping down two years early in October.

"Franchising now has a real momentum behind it, and the market is rising admirably to

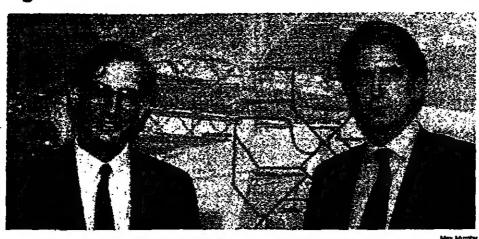
the opportunities this pres-ents," Sir George said. The suburban and mainline routes to and from the south of London will be run by London & South Coast, a wholly owned subsidiary of CGEA Group.

The company plans to introduce off-peak and Sunday services for south London and upgraded, faster services between London and Brighton. In addition it will invest £10m over the next three years in improving stations and trains.

However, the company has made no commitment to renew Network SouthCentral's 30year-old rolling stock, confirming the tendency to award long franchises of 12 or 15 years only in return for commitments to renew trains.

Mr Salmon said yesterday: "The rolling stock is fit for the life of this franchise and replacing it would not be economic. The Health and Safety Executive is content with this." The company also expects to

cut jobs, said Mr Antoine



George Muir (left) and Antoine Hurel of the French-owned rail company announce their winning bid

receive a subsidy of £85.3m in the first year declining to £34.6m in 2002-03. The average annual subsidy over the life of the franchise will be £51.4m. Network SouthCentral, which benefits from access to three London mainline stations, had passenger revenues of £157.3m

work's passenger revenue will be subject to fares regulation. Nationally, key fares will be capped at an average of the inflation rate for three years from January this year and at 1 per cent below the retail prices index for the following

Rival bidders for the fran-

Stagecoach, the Perth-based bus company, and a management buy-out team, and National Express, the bus com-pany. Générale Des Eaux was also part of the unsuccessful management buy-out bid for the east coast mainline fran-chise which was awarded to

By Robert Taylor, Employment Editor

Train drivers employed by the Great Western rail company can expect pay rises of more than 20 per cent - or 280 a week - in an efficiency deal being negotiated by Aslef, their union, and the management-

owned company. Mr Lew Adams, Asler's general secretary, said that agree-ment was imminent and the union would be recommending acceptance of the offer. "This will set the pace for drivers' pay in the privatised railway industry. It provides a benchmark for drivers in other operating companies," he added.
Under the proposals, drivers' basic pay would rise from £11,564 (\$17,577) to £20,000 a

year. The union has agreed to accept the abolition of over-

Aslef would also agree that up to 50 of the 375 Great West-

the basic rate.

tion into earnings of benefits that used to add 40 per cent to

ern drivers' jobs would be shed, but union officials stressed that this would be through voluntary redundancies. It is also expected that managers would have to accept redundancy as drivers took on more responsibilities as part of the deal, which is designed to make efficiency savings.

Mr Adams said yesterday, however, that the union would continue to oppose the privati-

sation of the railway industry.
Aslef is expected to introduce a resolution at the autumn conference for the opposition Labour party, calling on a future Labour government to return the whole of the railways to state owner-

the country. Mr Michael Howard, the home secretary and a senior cabinet rightwinger, said the result showed "we are not getting our message across".

Mr Blair said the Conserva-

tives had been "deeply humili-ated". For many Tories, the timing of his talks at the White House could not have been more galling. However, they took heart from a clear attempt by Mr Clinton not too appear too close to the Labour leader. Administration officials said the president now had a good working relationship with Mr Major which he would not jeopardise.

about Mr Blair's electoral pros pects, although they did have a short discussion about the hy-election result. The 40-minute meeting dealt

with Northern Ireland, foreign affairs and what was described as the "common economic problems faced by centre par-ties". Mr Clinton praised Mr Blair for his "statesmanlike" approach to the Ulster peace Mr Blair said the main focus

of the talks had been the common interest Labour and the US Democrats had in finding solutions to problems of social and economic insecurity. Discussions between his

office and the president's on mutual policy development would continue, Mr Blair added, but no formal process had been set in train.

Railtrack sell-off offers Train drivers investors share discounts 'offered 20% rise'

By Krishna Guha in London

Private investors will be offered a discount worth up to \$120 or a bonus of one free share for every 15 purchased when Railtrack - the owner of track, signalling and stations -is privatised, the government has announced.

Private client stockbrokers said the offer was "quite good" and favoured long-term investment in Railtrack shares. The discount could not be assigned a percentage value because the share price has not been

Investors who "stag" Railtrack shares - selling part-paid shares soon after the flotation - will not be eligible for either offer, according to SBC Warburg, the UK merchant bank which is advising on the sale. The bank said that private investors who hold their

shares until the second instalment is paid - in the next financial year - will be able to chose a discount of 15p per share on as many as 800 shares allocated. Alternatively, private investors can out for the 15 shares. This offer is available for as many as 1,200 shares allocated and held until

These offers apply to private investors who register with a "share shop" - a bank, build-ing society, broker or other financial intermediary authorised by the government to conduct the offer.

Private investors will also benefit from a discount on the first instalment, which will be set below the international offer price paid by

Mr Matthew Orr, of stockbrokers Killik & Co, said: "Every-

150 off £1 is a 15 per cent discount, but 15p off £10 would only be 1.5 per cent off." He added that the bonus offer of one for 15 was less generous than offers in early privatisa-

Brokers said that the relative merits of the two offers could not be assessed until the price was known. The higher the price, the more attractive the bonus offer against the 15p dis-

However, Mr Stephen Lansdown, of Hargreaves Lansdown, a private client stockbroker, said the discount compared favourably with recent power sector privatisa-tions. He said that the market expected a discount of between 5 per cent and 10 per cent for private investors.

A better route, Page 9

Safety net | Fresh boost for lossmaking Names

By Ralph Atkins,

Lloyd's of London yesterhopes that lossmaking Names could get substantial extra help following revisions to its also hopeful of agreeing a £100m (\$152.00m) contribution from auditors involved in litigation at the insurance mar-

Equitas bills are now expec-

Lloyd's optimism follows

Lloyd's plans to take over billions of pounds of liabilities on insurance policies sold before

ted to be "markedly" lower for many Names, individuals whose assets have traditionbenefiting, Lloyd's indicated, would be largely "honourable" members – those Names which have met their obligations at Lloyd's over the years. Lloyd's is also hopeful that a

revised figures on the cost of £100m contribution to the

facing legal action for damages from lossmaking Names will be agreed in the next week or two. Although the figure is lower than demanded by mes, there are signs that a deal will be struck. The auditors' contribution

will help push from £2.8bn to court settlement offer to lossmaking and litigating Names which, along with Equitas, comprise Lloyd's recovery plan. As well as ending litiga-tion which is crippling debt collection at Lloyd's, the outsetting up Equitas, a giant recovery plan from auditors of-court offer is intended to

Meanwhile, Lloyd's sought to play down the impact of a court ruling in California which dismissed an attempt to block moves against the insurance market by the state's

securities regulators.
The California Department ment in Lloyd's was mis sold and wants to seize \$500m held in trust to support Lloyd's US underwriting. Lloyd's said the roling referred to an earlier action by the department and that it would now seek to have a revised motion, filed this

Irish republican held in Dublin

in London's Docklands. The detention of the 26-year-

the end of the IRA's 17-month

establishing elections on May 30 to a Northern Ireland

who has been strongly involved in the Northern

Ireland peace process, last night sought to apply pressure on nationalists and republicans to co-operate with the next. and potentially decisive, phase. Mr Clinton said that the US administration had consistently pressed for talks involving "all parties committed to a

> But will the mature fields prove economically attractive?
> BP says its Mast sale should show whether "someone is willing to come in today and

pay for the upside" which it says an imaginative operator should be able to exploit. It

says its base case estimate for

the recoverable reserves of the four fields is 30m barrels. As for ahandonment, BP says the date at which the fields were originally thought to be depleted has constantly been pushed back through the use of new technology. Even rela-tively short extensions to field life of a few years or so can have a big impact on the economics of the Mast project, say

The political sensitivity of the Mast sale is such that EP has said that the "highest price won't necessarily win". It has also indicated that it will con-

tinne to operate Mast if the right buyer fails to materialise. But the company clearly hopes a qualified buyer will come forth in the next month or so. The emergence of new operators for old oil fields "could be a brand new business", says one executive. "It is important for the UK oil industry and it is important for the UK economy."

Regulations for banks tightened



Clinton

Labour

The opposition Labour party

leader, Mr Tony Blair, basking in his party's resounding

by election victory, yesterday received a warm welcome from

President Bill Clinton in Wash-

ington as prominent Tories rekindled doubts about Mr

John Major's ability to deliver

a general election win.

The prime minister acknowledged that the decimation of

Conservative support on

Thursday night in the Mid-lands constituency of Stafford-

shire South East was "disap-pointing". But he added: "Politics is not an easy ride. I am here to do what is right and stick with it."

The result, which saw

Labour pick up 60 per cent of the vote in a previously staunch Tory seat, left the gov-

ernment clinging to a majority

Labour will seek to com-

pound government difficulties with a debate on rall privatisa-tion next week, while the Scot-tish Nationalists called for a

co-ordinated strategy to force

Senior Conservative MPs

said the defeat, which exceeded

the worst expectations of strategists, called for a fresh

approach to policy presenta-

MP Mr John Redwood, who

challenged Mr Major unsuc-cessfully for the Conservative

party leadership last year, said: "I think there is a clear mes-

sage here for the government about the mood of the nation." He added: "Voters in the

by-election were saying the

economic recovery is not

enough, they want to see more

action on tax, they want reas-surance about the health ser-

vice, they want reassurance

about the future direction of

an early general election.

greets

leader

The Bank of England yesterday extended the powers of accountants appointed to help it regulate banks. The Bank's action follows recommendations made by the Board of Banking Supervision into the collapse of Barings in February 1995. Barings failed after Mr Nick Leeson, a trader based in Singapore, ran up THE BARINGS SLAbn losses through unauthorised derivatives collapse trades. At present banks must commission trades. At present banks must commission to the pulselie Ti

reporting accountants, often their auditors, to report to the Bank of England periodically on systems and controls, and on the accuracy of statistical returns. Proposed changes to this system were broadly outlined in January this year.
Yesterday the bank published details of these changes which

will come into effect on April 15. Reporting accountants may in future be asked to report on operations within the banking group – other than the bank itself. These could include operations outside the UK. The Bank may also commission special reports if required - when for example a bank signifi-cantly changes its business - in addition to the routine reports which are normally made annually. Banking associations and the leading accountancy firms were consulted over the changes. Fim Kelly, Accountancy Correspondent

Fujitsu to expand in N Ireland

West Belfast, one of Northern Ireland's most economically blighted areas, received a further jobs boost yesterday with the announcement of a £7.38m (\$11.18m) expansion by Fujitsu, the Japanese electronics company.

The decision to expand, creating an additional 100 jobs at the Springvale plant, follows a trip last month to Japan by Baroness Denton, the Northern Ireland economy minister. The factory, on an industrial estate on the peace line between the Roman Catholic and Protestant areas, will make telecommunications switching gear for British Telecommuni cations and other companies.

The latest announcement comes in the wake of local press eports that Emerson Electric of Missouri, the parent company of the Larne-based engineering concern F.G. Wilson, is poised to make a large-scale diesel engine investment in the area. possibly in collaboration with Caterpillar, the US plant manufacturer.

John Murray Brown, Belfost

Sony set for price war with Sega

A price war is looming in the video games market as Sony, the Japanese electronics group, is considering following its arch-rival. Sega, by slashing the price of its 32-bit games system from £299 (\$454.48) to £249.

At the beginning of this month Sega announced that it was undercutting Sony by reducing the price of the Saturn games system to £249 in a special three-week price promotion. Sales of the Saturn have since doubled. Sega is now expected

to leave the price at £249 and Sony is understood to be considering cutting the price of its PlayStation system, now £299, to a comparable level. So far the PlayStation has sold 3.9m systems worldwide, against 3.5m for the Saturn. The Sony system, which has achieved global hardware and software sales of \$2bn, has sold 200,000 machines in the UK, thereby outselling the

Sega recently announced that it was rationalising its European sales operation. Both Sega and Sony will face fresh competition next autumn when Nintendo, another Japanese games group, launches its Ultra 64, a 64-bit games system.

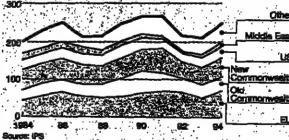
Alice Rausstrorn, London

Immigration rate steady

Immigration into Britain has been remarkably steady during the pest decade and contributes close to one-third of the country's total population growth. According to the Office of Population, Censuses and Sur-

veys, total immigration to Britain - defined as people intending to stay for 12 months or more - has fluctuated at around 210,000 people every year for most of the past decade.

intake from around the world



The largest proportion of immigrants - more than 25 per cent - come from the European Union, but nearly as many arrive from the new Commonwealth, including the Indian subcontinent, Africa and the Caribbean. The EU is also the most popular destination for emigrants, followed by the old Commonwealth - Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and There is also a very high turnover of immigrants, with at

least half of all entrants in 1994 planning to stay for less than four years. Mark Suzman, London Saving bonds sales at new peak Sales of National Savings bonds and certificates - index-linked

government securities - reached a new high of £11.7bn (\$17.78bm) last year, the government said yesterday. These sales provided a record net contribution of 25,25bn state fundsioners bonds, premium bonds and children's bonds all

reached new sales peaks last year. The National Savings Department – which becomes an autonomous agency in July – now manages 257bn of investments. The results reflect - now manages 15/001 or investments. The restrict favourable interest rates and increasingly aggressive market-

Best business book awards made

A history of one of the world's largest banks and a book which could transform Japanese management style are the first winners of the Financial Times/Booz-Allen & Hamilton Global Business Book Awards. The winner of the best business book of 1995 was Die Deutsche Bonk 1870-1995 by Lothar Gall, Gerald D. Feldman, Harold James, Carl-Ludwig Holtfrerich and Hans E. Büschgen, published by C.H. Beck The winner of the best management book was intellectualis-

ing Capability by Noboru Kono and Ikujiro Nonaka, published by Nihon Keizai Shinibunsha Publishing. Professor Harold James, receiving the award for Die Deut-

Professor Harold James, receiving the award for Die Deutsche Bank, said its publication was a testament to the courage of the bank, which commissioned its own history in spite of having to deal with the ugly period of the Nazi dictatorship. "It is an important part of modern German life to think about the lessons of history, one of which is that the suppression of economic freedoms is connected with the suppression of rollites freedoms." he said of political freedoms," he said.

Intellectualising Capability, which has not been published in English, is a study of the way in which organisations treat, and create, knowledge. The chair of the global judging panel, Mr Edwin L. Artzi, chairman of the executive committee of the board of directors of Procter & Gamble, said the book had the potential to overhaul Japanese - and ultimately the rest of the world's - management style.

Peter Ansden, London

Pump contract: Weir Pumps, a subsidiary of Weir, the Glasgow-based engineering company, has won a fa.4m (\$6.68m) order to supply pumps for the BP's ETAP oil field in

for beef farmers criticised

Financial Times Reporters

The meat trade sharply criticised the government's application of the beef intervention system yesterday after only 140 tonnes of British beef was bought by the European Commission compared with 9,000 topnes for the rest of the European Union. "The government has set up

intervention in the most restrictive way possible in the UK," said Mr Peter Scott, the general secretary of the Federation of Fresh Meat Wholesolers. "We've been warning for three years that the system is inflexible, impractical and unsafe."
When intervention was trig-

gered by last week's emergency meeting of EU farm ministers in Luxembourg, the UK was expected to account for Germany, with about 4,500 tonnes, and France, with 3,000 tomes, accounted for most of the beef bought.

Meat traders believe the gov-

ernment has organised intervention, which is designed to provide a safety net for farmers, in a restricted way because of its free market principles. The British intervention board yesterday widened the The current sale by British categories of meat it would accept into intervention.

The board said the main reathe Scottish coast could herald a new era for the North Sea oil

son for the low take-up of Brit-

ish beef into intervention yes-terday was that farmers had

their eye on "the main chance". Demand was picking

up on the open market where they would get more for it than in intervention. European Commission offical's were surprised by the low UK figure, but suggested it reflected hopes that market conditions might improve, and uncertainty surrounding the slaughter plan to control bovine spongiform encephalo-

pathy to be presented by the UK before the end of April.

The beef is being bought to be put into cold storage until it can be sold - the first time the intervention precedure, which produced the infamous "beef mountain" of the early 1990s, has been used for more than two years. Brussels is prepared to buy up to 50,000 tonnes of beef over a one-month period. The government lifted its ban on imports of beef from cattle aged over 30 months after protests from Australia. New Zealand and Argentina.

An Irish republican was being questioned by police in Dublin last night following a joint operation between British and Irish security forces in the

in recent years government officials and oil executives

have speculated about possible structural changes in the

North Sea industry as many of

the earlier fields approach

their final productive phase. Big operators which pio-

neered the development of the

industry in the 1970s are expec-

ted to progressively withdraw from older fields in order to

concentrate resources outside

the UK or in new producing

areas, such as that just open-ing up in the deep waters west

Some observers have pre-

dicted the emergence of new

oil companies or consortiums

of oil companies and service

companies which would speci-

alise in running fields in their

final years. They would also have to oversee their abandon-

BP's proposed sale of the

Beatrice, Buchan, Clyde and

Thistle fields and the oil ter-

minal at Nigg could offer evi-

dence that such changes are

finally taking place. But the

ment.

of the Shetland Islands.

ordinated hunt by Irish and UK police following the resumption of the IRA's bombing campaign on the UK mainland in February. The UK anti-terrorist squad

the arrest could be connected

sale also raises difficult issues

both for the government and industry alike.

company is not a "forced seller" of the fields, which in

1994 were grouped together

under the management of a "mature asset team" (Mast).

whose brief was to extend the

life of the rapidly declining res-

ervoirs. "Two years ago these

fields had little value," according to BP. "But the improve-

ment in performance has been

so marked that a number of

companies have recently

expressed interest in these fields."

Although BP says the fields

"still offer significant upside

potential", they are finding it

difficult to compete within the company for capital, say execu-

Finding a buyer for such

assets is not merely a matter of

agreeing a price, however. BP

says the government must be

convinced that any new opera-

tor would have the technical

competence to run the fields

safely, and could undertake the

expensive process of decom-

missioning the platforms once

Some executives point to the

US Guif of Mexico as a model

for what might occur in the

oil production ends.

BP executives stress that the

was reluctant to confirm that with the bomb attack in the Docklands district, which

The British government is due soon to publish legislation

US President Bill Clinton.

peaceful democratic future" for the province.

BP sell-off may signal shift in industry structure as assets enter their final productive phase Retirement looms for North Sea oil fields

Beatrice 136 145 Buchan 102 120 139 132 Thistle area

UK. Dozens of small oil companies have been established in recent years in Texas and Louisiana that specialise in operating older oil fields. The lower overheads of such "Ma and Pa" operations allow them to make a profit on fields which would be uneconomic

overhead reduction in the UK.

say industry experts, because

for larger companies. But there is less scope for

over safety issues and eventual abandonment. That means that very small companies are unlikely to emerge as specialist operators in the UK. Instead, "reputable secondtier oil companies," such as

exploration and production groups with operating experience outside the UK, or consortiums which group such companies with oil service say industry experts, because companies, are the most likely of the much harsher conditions candidates to get government of the North Sea and worries approval, say executives.

(170)

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With the place was notice

國際編集を与してはなけられるほど

Marine additional State as and

755 / Ex

Deutsche Telekom denies plans for C&W bid sy Andrew Fisher in Frankfurt and Alan Gane in London by Andrew Fisher in Fra

November through Germany's biggest ever share issue, aims to build up outside shareholdings in the UK and Asia worth more than DM10hn by 2000. However, contrary to reports, it is not preparing to make a bid for Cable and Wireless, the UK-based telecommunications

C&W is already in negotia-tions with British Telecommu-

or the people of Hiro-shima, Mazda's aprawl-ing car plant, which extends along the southern

coast of the harbour city,

shielding it from the open sea, has been a proud symbol of the

The decision yesterday by

Japan's fifth biggest carmaker

to become part of Ford marks a break with Japan's previous

aversion to foreign control of

flagship industrial companies.

It is also a blow to Hiroshima's intensely independent local

community, which is known to

regard even people from Tokyo

almost as much as outsiders as

"It will be very difficult for

Mazda people in Hiroshima to

accept a foreigner as presi-

dent," said one analyst. Nevertheless, the news was generally

received in Japan with quiet

resignation as an inevitable

consequence of market forces.

executive who is to become

Mazda's new president, allevi-

ated local fears by at least

indicating heavy job losses

Mazda R360 Coupe

make transmissions

trucks in Thailand

transfer control of Mazda to Ford

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The agreement between the

machine tools. Later renamed Toyo Kogyo

1931: Production of three-wheel trucks begins

two companies is part of a fairly loose, co-operative alli-

Along the road to Ford . . .

1920: Toyo Cork Kogyo founded in Hiroshima, making

1960: Production of first Mazda car, a two-door vehicle called

1961: Technical co-operation with NSU/Wankel of Germany

1969: Toyo Kogyo, Ford and Nissan launch joint venture to

1992: Mazda and Ford begin joint management of Mazda's

1995: Mazda and Ford agree to start joint production of

1996: Ford takes 33 per cent; both companies agree to

1993: Mazda trucks, made by Ford, go on sale in the US

1972: Cumulative production total of 5m vehicles reached

1975: Production of Ford Festiva begins under licence

1979: Ford takes a 25 per cent stake in Toyo Kogyo

1982: Mazda starts to sell Ford cars in Japan

1964: Toyo Kogyo renamed Mazda Corporation

Mr Henry Wallace, the Ford

region's industrial might.

sche Telekom finance director, said this week the group's plans included possible linkups with Cable and Wireless in the UK or other markets although previous attempts to form alliances with the UK company in foreign ventures had not succeeded.

It was not, however, contemplating a bid for Cable and C&W yesterday said it had Wireless, although it had had no talks with Telekom

wider trend among companies, not just in the car industry, but in a wide field, to develop

global strategies as borders increasingly fall," noted Mr

Masaki Iwasaki, chairman of

the Japan Automobile Manu-

Global competition has

forced Japanese companies to

become less inward looking

and collusive since the yen's

sharp appreciation. Even some

of Japan's most competitive companies have been put on the defensive. Ford's acquisi-

tion is not unique in the Japa-nese car industry: General Motors, the world's biggest

vehicle maker, owns 37 per

cent of the Isuzu commercial

vehicles group - though Isuzu has always had a Japanese.

Nevertheless, the Ford-

Mazda link shows Japanese

carmakers fully appreciate the

need for a stronger global strategy to survive the intensi-

fying rivalry in the motor

industry. While stronger com-

penies such as Toyota, Japan's

largest carmaker, have been

aggressively developing global strategies with the help of

Source: Mazda

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535p on early reports of what Mr Kroske had supposedly said at a dinner in Frankfurt on Thursday night. While stressing the UK as a priority for Deutsche Telekom, Mr Kröske there were various potential partners. "It need not necessar-By be Cable and Wheless," he

while C&W would be a considerable prize for Telekom, it would be virtually impossible to mount a successful bid. Telekom has some DM100bn of debt and is at the beginning of a complex flotation process. Furthermore, the UK government has a "golden share" in C&W and would be unlikely to allow a German takeover to

ble tie-up in Thailand with Shiniwatra International, a

By 2000, he said, the group's spending on stakes in other companies should amount to between DM10bn and DM20bn - about half its technology spending, which has already declined to half the 1992 total of DM32bn and would fall further each year.

about DM80bn, half its balance sheet total of DM160bn, at the end of 1996 or the start of

He expected the federal government stake in Deutsche Telekom to fall below 50 per cent by around 2002, as it sold more shares to finance the civil servant pension burden it was taking over from the com-

Yahoo! shares soar on Wall St debut

Internet frenzy hit Wall Street again yesterday with the stock market debut of Yahoo!, the pioneer directory service for the World Wide Web. Yahoo!'s 2.6m share offering, initially priced at \$13, opened yesterday at \$241/2 and shot to \$421/2 by mid-session, giving the fledgling venture - a company with year-to-date revenues of \$1.36m that has yet to turn a profit market capitalisation of \$1.1bn.

Created in 1994 by Mr David Filo and Mr Jerry Yang, two Stanford University electrical engineering PhD students who began by simply compiling lists of their favourite Web sites, Yahoo! has become one of the most popular means of searching the Internet. Yahoo! (which stands for Yet Another Hierarchical Officious Oracle), is an online directory of World Wide Web sites. For millions of Internet users, it is the first place they go when trying to find their way around the rapidly

growing Internet.
"We're getting about 6m hits per day," said Mr Jerry Yang,
whose business card describes him as Chief Yahoo. "This makes us the second most active web site next to Netscape's home page." Yesterday, Messrs Yang and Filo were celebrating their new-found wealth. Both are paper millionaires following the stock offering. Also cheering was Softbank, the Japanese computer distribution and publishing firm which holds a 37 per cent stake in the company. Earlier this week Softbank increased its investment in

Roche held back by currency

Yahoo!, acquiring 8.5m shares at \$12.50 each, to raise its

holding to 9.52m shares.

Roche, the Swiss drugs company, lifted sales in the first quarter of 1996 by 5 per cent to SFr3.79bn (\$3.1bn), from SFr3.59bn in the same period last year. The performance was held back by the strength of the Swiss franc; when measured in local currencies, sales growth was 10 per cent.

Louise Kehoe, San Francisco

The fastest growing division was diagnostics, with sales up 18 per cent to SFr176m thanks to new product launches. By contrast, sales of fragrances and flavours fell 4 per cent to SFr387m, hurt by the strong Swiss franc. Sales in the biggest division, pharmaceuticals, rose 7 per cent to SFr2.43bn.

Foster's bid for Rothbury Wines

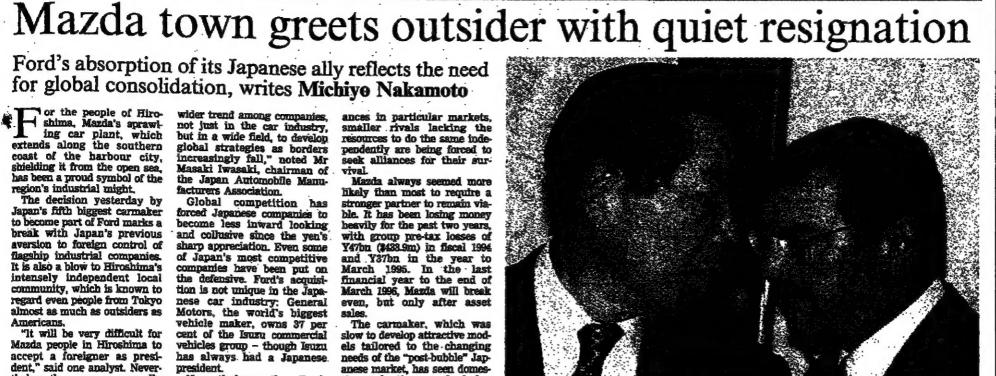
Foster's Brewing, the large Melbourne-based brewer, yesterday made its second takeover foray into Australia's burgeoning wine industry with a 60 cents-a-share offer for Rothbury Wines, the New South Wales-based vintner. Rothbury had been put into play earlier this month when BRL Hardy. Australia's second largest winemaker, announced a A\$2im (US\$18.9m) offer.

The bid, worth 43 cents a share, was rejected by the target company. BRL Hardy made its bid after picking up an 18.3 per cent interest in Rothbury from Seagram Australia. Yesterday, Foster's said it, too, had acquired a 14.4 per cent stake in Rothbury – this time, from Goodman Fielder, the food manufacturing group.

Carlsberg enters Poland

Carlsberg, the Danish brewer, yesterday made its first investment in Poland's growing beer market when it was allocated 7m shares worth 127.4m zlotys (\$51m) in a controversial new stock issue by the listed Okocim brewery.

The decision by Okocim management gives Carlsberg a 31 per cent share in the brewery, and dislodges Brau und Brunnen (BBI) of Germany as the strategic investor there. Christopher Bobinski, Warsau



Former Mazda president Yoshihiro Wada (left) with successor Henry Wallace from Ford

cent. "We don't think this is normal," concedes Mr Yoshihiro Wada, the outgoing presi-

Bank, Mazda's main bank, four ord's increased stake is expected to accelerate Mazda's belated

tic production nearly halve

from a peak of 1.42m in 1990 to

Canacity utilisation at Hofu.

its state-of-the-art factory in

western Japan, is just 45 per

dent sent in from Sumitomo

771,000 last year.

restructuring by further reduc-ing its model range and integrating its activities more closely into Ford's global Mr Koji Endo, industry ana-

lyst at Lehman Brothers in Tokyo, says: "The agreement indicates Ford has decided to assign small and medium-sized ational vehicles to Mazda, which will be responsible for Japan and Asia in Ford's

Mazda is likely to concentrate on the Familia and Capella - its bread-and-butter models, and a number of recreational vehicles such as the

Mr Wallace identified four areas where the two companies

strengthened relationship: a broader product range, improving their ability to enter new segments of the market; cost savings from sharing product platforms and economies of scale;

 strengthened distribution and sales capabilities; greater ability to access new and emerging markets.

Ford and Mazda have been working towards these objectives since agreeing to strengthen their alliance in 1993. Yet, although Ford sent four top managers, including Mr Wallace, to its Japanese partner at the time, it did not raise its 25 per cent stake.

Since then, Ford has come to recognise Mazda's benefits. Its eth lies in Jaca and the broader Asian region, according to Mr Wayne Booker, Ford's executive vice-president for international

Mazda already builds vehicles at a number of regional sites. The two compa-nies last year announced a big joint project in Thailand; more may follow. Mazda's skill in small cars

would benefit from their could could also form the basis for a future joint "Asian" vehicle, according to some analysts. Both Toyota and Honda are working on lower-cost, stripped-down versions of existing cars for emerging Asian markets. "Clearly, the issue of the Asian car is a very

strong priority," says Mr Wal-Mazda also offers Ford. which wants to expand its Japanese sales, an extensive local dealer network. Ford, like GM and Chrysler, is investing heavily in building up its Japanese sales. Its cars are currently sold in Japan through

Mazda needs Ford. • Additional reporting from Haig Simonian in London

Autorama, a joint venture dis-

tributor controlled jointly with

Mazda. According to Mr

Booker, Autorama will proba-

bly pick up more former Mazda

high quality engineering and

could help Ford when it is

striving to reduce its product

development and production

costs. Taking control of Mazda

may imply that Ford needs

Mazda almost as much as

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Compass battles

Two of the world's leading contract catering groups are locked in battle over a French business controlled by its managers.

Sodexho, the French group which owns Gardner Merchant

of the UK, and Compass each own about a third of Eurest

France Compass acquired its share when it bought Eurest

But the 55 managers who own the remaining third of Eurest

France have 58 per cent of the voting rights. They will meet on

Tuesday to discuss offers for their shares from both Sodexho

and Compass.

Sodexho published an advertisement in yesterday's Finan-

cial Times outlining its offer of FFr592m (£76.7m), rising to FFr694m depending on future profitability. It has also taken legal action over the original sale by Accor of its stake to

Compass, which described Sodexho's advertisement as "an astonishing tactic," said yesterday that it was in advanced

negotiations with the management of Eurest France and was-confident of its legal position.

Mr Roger Matthews, finance director, said that Eurest

France was the group's preferred vehicle for expanding in

France, which had a large market with significant growth potential. Eurest France sales last year were about £370m.

2170m proceeds from December's sale of its healthcare division were understood at the time to be sufficient to purchase the two-thirds of Eurest France that it does not own.

Ennemiz, the aggregates company, has rejected an increased bid of 35p a share from Redland. The building materials group had previously bid 32p.

Redland said the revised offer, which valued its target at £6.7m, was final and would not be raised. Redland said it held

33.1 per cent of the voting rights after converting its 845,000

reference shares yesterday. Ennemix claims that its net asset value is 50p a share. Mr

Gerald Berwick, chairman, said: "Any sort of offer would have

to be reasonably close to that and would by definition have a

four in front." Most big shareholders had indicated they would not sell at 350, he said. The largest shareholder is Mr Vaughan McLeod, chief executive, who with his family owns about 28

Greenalls Group; the pub operator that recently entered the

FT-SE 100, yesterday said it would take a 25.9m exceptional

charge to cover the cost of changing its distribution and

It is contracting out the operation to Wincanton Logistics in a move that should save £1.75m a year after an initial cost of

25m. An additional charge for restructuring Boddington's dis-

tribution arrangement with TNT will be included in the £23m overall reorganisation cost announced last year after Green-

alls bought the pub operator.

The group made £100m pre-tax in the year to September.

The move, which involves an unspecified number of job losses, follows a trend within the industry. Mr Peter Greenall,

managing director, said: "There is pressure on service and

costs, which means that the traditional dray service is more

difficult. We are focusing on core businesses where we have the expertise, and developing businesses where we have

strengths." He said the move would allow management to

focus on supply and support services to its pubs and hotels.

Greenalis to take £6m charge

warehousing for its pubs and hotels.

Redland's fresh bid spurned

Ennemix shares rose 3p to 36p yesterday.

Compass would not reveal how much it is offering. But the

over Eurest

International from Accor last July for £591m.

NEWS DIGEST

Panel criticises BET

The Takeover Panel yesterday criticised BRT, the business services group, for issuing a misleading statement about the price of Rentokil's £2.1bn hostile takeover bid for its industry rival.

The panel said a BET statement on Thursday that Rento-kil's revised offer was only 1.1 per cent above the previous night's closing price had not

used a valid comparison.

BET had compared an offer price which did not include dividends with a BET share price which did include divi-dend payments, the panel said. The real percentage increase at the time of the statement

was 3 per cent. The panel said it had asked BET not to make any similar comparisons again.

Under the new Rentokil offer, which was increased on Thursday and declared final, BET shares were valued last night at 212p, compared to their closing price of 208%p, up %p. Rentokil shares were

up 1p at 351p. Analysts speculated yesterday that between 15 per cent and 20 per cent of BET shares, which were very heavily traded on Thursday, are now owned by arbitrageurs. Some analysts believe that these the shares if the Rentokil offer were rejected, which could cause a sharp fall in the share

Rentokil is offering nine new shares and £10 cash for every 20 BET shares, plus a 4p dividend. There is a 202%p cash alternative.

Rentokil annou 3pm on Thursday it had received valid acceptances from 3.43 per cent of BET's shareholders for the cash-andpaper offer and 0.12 per cent for the cash alternative. The offer closes on April 26.

THE RTZ CORPORATION PLC NOTICE OF MEETING

due is hearthy given that the thir ation PLC will be held at The Disabeth II Conference Centre, incensey, Wastminster, Londo Wednesday, Wastminster, Londo

(a) the Section 30 Amount shall be £35,230,794; and

(b) the Section 89 Amount shall be 48,988,282.

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To re-appoint andstors. To receive the Company's accounts and the reports of the direction and auditors for the year ended 31 December 1995

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Takeover | Independent touches parents for £23m

By Raymond Snoddy

A further £23m has been committed to Newspaper Publishing, publishers of The Independent and the Independent on Sunday, most of it to cover

Mirror Group and Independent Newspapers of Ireland have each agreed to provide half of the £23m equity funding through a 1-for 1 rights issue at 31p a share.

Egypt hits Cunard with £15m

By Sknon Kuper

reef bill

Cunard has confirmed that Egypt is demanding \$23.5m (£15.4m) in compensation for damage to a coral reef struck by the lossmaking cruise line's Royal Viking Sun ship last

A lawyer representing Cun-ard and its insurers is meeting officials of Egypt's governmental environment agency today. The company said it was fully insured for all costs except the two months' revenue lost while the luxury liner was out of

However, the Egyptian demand raises further doubts over whether Kvaerner will retain Cunard when the Norwegian shipbuilding and engineering group takes over Trafalgar House, the cruise line's parent, later this month. Mr Trond Andresen, senior vice president at Kvaerner, reiterated yesterday that the group had yet to decide Cunard's future. "It is not on our

effectively replace loans made

by the two main shareholders to Newspaper Publishing. Last year the group incurred pre-tax losses of £19.5m on top of a £50.8m loss for the previous 15 months.

Mr Liam Healy, chairman, said yesterday that Newspaper Publishing "has significantly reduced the rate of losses". The target is to cut the pre-

tax loss this year to £6m-£7m

Some £14m of the total will and the actual figure could be sales of 291,733 copies in the frectively replace loans made significantly better than period from August 1995 to

The positive factors include cover price increases which took the price from 30p to 40p by January this year without a significant impact on circulation. In addition, advertising revenues have been rising and costs have been cut, partly through 44 editorial redundan-

cies following a reorganisation.

anuary 1996, compared with 287,132 in the same period a year earlier.

Current sales are believed to be about 290,000. The newspaper has not had a permanent editor since the abrupt departure of Mr Ian Hargreaves last November.

permanent appointment is diluted to 6.73 per cent.

reorganisation out of the way before the board addressed the editorship issue.

As a result of the rights issue both the Mirror and Independent Newspapers will have 46.42 per cent of Newspaper Publishing.

Prisa, the Spanish publishing group which owns El Pais. will Mr Charles Wilson will not be taking up its rights and remain as acting editor until a as a result its holding will be



Plumbing the depths: Cunard will inspect the Red Sea coral reef for recent dama

list of core assets," he said. One analyst said: "Cunard's a complete mess. Kvaerner couldn't sell it." However, he suggested that it might change the line's management. "Cunard seems to be a more than

Cunard made a £16.4m loss

in 1995 and is unlikely to break even before 1998. The Egyptian incident follows the 1994 fiasco when Cunard's flagship QE2 liner set sail before a £30m refit had been finished. The resulting passenger compensation claims cost £8.4m. The company said it was

fully insured both for damage

tion to the 557 pessengers for the unused portions of their world cruise tickets. With tickets costing up to £80,000 each, this bill could run to several million pounds. Cunard's insurer for these liabilities is Steamship Mutual, a group of

ard. The hull, damaged in the incident, is insured at Lloyd's. The cruise line said it would inspect the Red Sea reef "to ascertain whether there has been damage, and if there has been damage, whether it's

The Royal Viking Sun is to resume sailing on June 8.

Mark Ashurst analyses heavy trade in the conglomerate's shares Competitors covet Lonrho's riches cor's right of refusal on the platinum assets could be

Heavy trade in Lonrho shares on the Johannesburg Stock operations in Ghana and Zimbabwe and is expected to pro-Exchange this week has revived speculation over South duce more than 2m ounces of gold by 2000. "There is no ques-African interest in the mining tion that Ashanti has already assets earmarked for demerger from the conglomerate.

Lonrho shares worth about R716m (£114m), about 7.4 per cent of the shares in issue, changed hands on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange on Monday and the price remained strong against a failing market throughout the

The activity follows the sur-

Anglo American Corporation of the 5.9 per cent stake in Lon-rho previously held by its founder, Mr Tiny Rowland. Now Anglo has the option to take its stake to 26 per cent, but has made it clear it is interested only in Lonrho's mining assets, which include a 37 per cent stake in Ashanti Goldfields of Ghana and other mines in Africa and New Guinea, and a majority stake in Duiker Exploration, the

South African coal producer. "Ashanti would make an excellent vehicle for Anglo's gold interests in Africa, complementing the offshore activities of Minorco in Europe and Asia," said Mr David Hall, bead of research at ING Bar-

Ashanti is expanding its become a mining finance house," said Mr Barry Sergeant, analyst at BoE NatWest Securities in Johannesburg.

A partnership between Ashanti and Anglo would provide the financial muscle to sink another shaft at Ashanti's Obuasi mine in Ghana and enable closer technical co-operation between the two many ex-Anglo people are working there already," said one mining engineer at Anglo, But Anglo's ambitions could

frustrate those of rival South African mining finance house Gencor, which plans to merge its Impela Platinum subsidiary with Lonrho's platinum interests. The merger has been stal-led pending the outcome of a review by the European Commission, and could be scuppered if Anglo increases its stake in Lonrho.

"Gencor would be well advised to get themselves into a bargaining position. If they can be a party to the first demerging of Lourbo, then there is still scope for the Impala-Lonrho platinum merger," said Mr Sergeant.



Brian Gilbertson: 'We don't

In theory, Gencor, which has a 27 per cent stake in Lourho's platinum division, has first refusal on Lonrho's platinum assets if the parent group changes hands. But Lonrho has borrowings in excess of £262m, of which £111m was in the mining division at the end of September 1995. Analysts said that while the exact distribution of this debt was not known, "the vast majority" was in the platinum division. If the Lonrho demerger goes ahead, its debt would be allo-

cated to separate divisions.

The strategic benefits of Gen-

undermined by Lonrho's debt allocation, unless Gencor was in a position to contest the debt at the demerger.

Analysts also noted that the
Lonrho trade had occurred in Johannesburg, not London.

"Anglo would not have done that quantity of trading on the JSE, but Gencor is still under very severe foreign exchange restrictions," said one. Gencor is heavily geared, but

could raise cash from selling its 15 per cent stake in Malbak, However, Mr Brian Gilbertson, Gencor chairman, denied the group would sell its Malbak stake to buy Lonrho. "We don't have a problem raising cash," he said. He refused to comment on speculation that it had been involved in this week's trade. It is unlikely that Amplats.

Anglo's platinum operation. would merge with Lonrho Platinum. If Gencor fails to conclude the deal, Lonrho's platinum mines at Rustenburg would probably be sold to a third party. Mr Steve Kearney, a director of Impala, told anslysts on Thursday that the European Commission "was interested in Anglo, and if and when their stake does increase, I assume Anglo would have to address their concerns".

chains

Apax, the venture capitalist, is on the shortlist of bidders for Signet's Ernest Jones and H Samuel jewellery chains.

The shortlist, drawn up by the debt-laden Signet group early this week, is believed to consist of no more than three names. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank to have indicated that a successful bid would have to cover both chains.

Apax's bid is thought to exceed \$280m, and if it wins, it is expected to buy Goldsmiths. the UK jeweller, take it private and merge it with one or both of the chains, and then refloat it in about two years' time. Goldsmiths' market value is 262.8m. The new company might dispose of the H Samuel chain, probably to Argos.

One analyst said: "It sounds an incredibly complicated and expensive way of going about it." Goldsmiths shareholders might demand a large pre-mium for their shares, as they would expect a takeover of the chains to produce savings of up to £8m from merging head

Mr Jurek Piasecki, Gold-smiths chairman, chief executive and major shareholder, was watching the US Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Georgia and could not be

reached for comment.
Goldsmiths has submitted an independent bid for the chains, but company associ-ates said they had heard noth-ing about the shortlist. The winning bid is expected to be close to £300m. "That's near the price Signet wanted," the "The likely purchaser is prob-ably paying too high a price." Signet's market value is £92.2m, and Ernest Jones and H Samuel, its UK arms, eccounted for only about 40 per cent of the group's £924m sales for the year to January 28 1995. Signet, which announces its annual results on Wednesday, has bank debts of £320m-£350m and obligations to preference sharehold-

ers of nearly £500m, including £130m in unpaid dividends. Zale Corporation, the US jeweller rumoured to have expressed interest in the chains, yesterday said it had made no bid.

Apax is on shortlist for two Signet

By Simon Kuper

Abbot held back by tax charge Pre-tax profits at Abbot, the oil and gas services group created when Abbot Holdings reversed into Unigroup last June, rose from £364,000 in the year to September 30 1994 to £1.8m for the 15 months to December 31 1995 on the back of a strong performance by KCA Drilling, the Aberdeen-based subsidiary

The pre-tax line was distorted by a write-back of £2.13m goodwill on a disposal. Turnover rose from 26.6m to 230.7m. The contribution from KCA was for six and a half months However, the company recorded losses per share of 3.5p (0.1p) due to an increased tax charge relating to earlier disposals. Post-balance sheet events include the February takeover of OIS International Inspection, which carries out non-destruc-tive inspection work for the petrochemical and power indus-tries, following a contested bid launched last December.

Tracker Network losses halved

Tracker Network, which distributes vehicle tracking systems, halved pre-tax losses from £3.39m to £1.61m in 1995 and predicted a profit this year.

Mr Raigh Kanter, chairman of the Aim-listed group, said: "I am confident that with the introduction of Mark II and the increasing network subscription income, we can look forward to profitability in 1996.

Turnover in 1995 jumped from £4.8m to £8.5m. Unit sales totalled 39,420 - an increase of 36 per cent. Sales of units by motor manufacturers continued to increase, as did the percentage of sales to the heavy goods vehicle and construction

Mr Kanter said the group's financial position remained strong with £948,000 (£1.22m) cash at the bank and £5.25m (£2.97m) of deferred income on the balance sheet at the year

MBO at CGA Direct

A management team has bought out CGA Direct, the insurance broker, from Oriel Group in a package worth £20m, all but £100,000 of which is funded by Morgan Grenfell Develop-

MGDC owns 90 per cent of the company, the management team the rest. Mr Andy Macfie of MGDC said it had looked at the deal with an eye to flotation or a trade buy within four to five years. He said Mr Nigel Cayzer, chairman of Oriel, had approached the fund about a deal for CGA, which had more than tripled its policyholders in the past two years to about

First Leisure sells snooker clubs

First Leisure, the diversified leisure and hotels group, has First Leisure, the diversined leisure and notes group, has exchanged contracts on the sale of its nine snooker and pool clubs to Waterfall Holdings for a sum exceeding 26.5m.

Completion is expected by the end of April. The consideration consists of a mixture of cash and Waterfall shares amounting to a quarter of its enlarged equity. The sale is conditional on Waterfall being admitted to the Alternative Investment Market

■ BRITISH THORNTON HOLDINGS is to dispose of its lossmaking educational furniture business to a management buy-out team in a £400,000 deal. ■ INTERCARE GROUP: In an initial move by its new man-

agement team, the Huddersfield-based healthcare products agement team, the numersheld-based heat-incare products supplier is paying £3.1m cash for Sungift, a maker of electric mobility scooters. Bedfordshire-based Sungift achieved profits before tax of £391,000 in the 12 months to July 31; net assets at that date amounted to £652,000.

■ INTRUM JUSTITIA: Broker HSBC James Capel bought 4.61m of its ordinary shares on behalf of Intrum at a price of 100p per share. The shares were bought by Capel as principal and will be transferred to Intrum at 100p each.)

■ REFLEC is seeking to raise £750,000 in an offer for subscription in order to commercialise and market its reflective printing inks. The offer, underwritten by Peel Hunt, values the company at £2.75m. It proposes to join the AIM

New Ireland advances

By John Murray Brown

to I£10.4m

New Ireland Holdings, the Dublin-based life and general insurer, reported a 42 per cent increase in pre-tax profits for 1995 to I£10.4m (£10.1m), helped by a threefold increase from its general insurance business. Strong bond and equity markets increased investment income from IS6.7m to IS7.5m. The embedded value of the life business, which measures investments and future discounted income flows, rose 22 per cent to 1£102.2m. This included 1£10m arising from the conversion of its redeemable preference shares.

Funds under management increased 23 per cent to E1.6bn. Annual premium new business increased 4.5 per cent in a static market, while pension sales were up 9 per cent. Annual premium income rose 14 per cent to L£78.6m, while single premium new business sales were slightly

down at I£93.1m. The financial services division achieved a profit before tax of I£933,000, up 74 per cent, and the general insurance business increased to I23.23m (T£140,000).

The directors recommended a 10 per cent dividend increase to 16.86p (15.31p) via a final of

Directors' gains

Senior executives' pay rises 100% at London Forfaiting

London Forfaiting, the specialist trade finance group, awarded senior directors an average pay increase of 100 per cent last year after reinstating their bonuses. The bonuses, which accompanied a recovery in trading performance as profits climbed

69 per cent to £27.1m, were tied to pre-tax profits, trading performance and earnings per share. No bonuses were paid to the chairman or chief executive in 1994, when the company reported profits down 26 per cent, and other directors received only small bonuses. Mr Jack Wilson, chairman, was paid a bonus of £384,772, more than his basic salary, which took his total pay to

£779,356. In 1994, he earned

£391,468. The total pay of Mr

Stathis Papoutes, chief execu-tive, more than doubled to Other directors awarded

bonuses worth more than their annual salary were Mr Ool Boon Aun (a 103 per cent increase, aided by an overseas housing allowance of £61,333, to £584,609), Mr Victor Papadopoulos (up 115 per cent to £515,904), Mr Raphael Preteceille (up 88 per cent to £439,090), Mr Pravin Samani (up 78 per cent to £440,891) and Mr Mark West (up 11 per cent to £512,693).

total cost of £528,351, later sell-

ing 140,168 shares at an aver-

age of £9.80, receiving £1.37m. Last month, GKN reported a 61 per cent rise in 1995 profits. Mirror Group deputy managing director Mr Roger Eastoe and his wife Linda realised 2587,199 profit on Thursday by

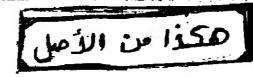
· GKN: Mr Trevor Bonner, existing interest in 38,168 managing director of GKN automotive and agritechnical products, has made £845,295 from the sale of shares. He exercised options for the purchase of 152,668 shares at a

exercising options on 516,173 shares in the newspaper pub-Options were granted on 64,000 shares at 125p on May 17 1991 and on 452,173 at 115p on April 6 1998. Mr Eastoe sold 506,173 shares at 230p and transferred 10,000 to Mrs Eastoe, who sold them at the same price. Mr Eastoe retains his

shares.

• C&J Clark paid Mr John Clothier, its former group managing director, £162,000 in consultancy fees last year, and not Mr Malcolm Cotton, as stated in yesterday's paper.

Date of Total for Abbet 15 mbs to Dec 31 & 30.7 (6.59) topolities Three's §\$\frac{\phi}{2}\$ Yr to Dec 31 \times 10.032 (0.013) How instant \$\frac{\phi}{2}\$ Yr to Dec 31 \times 10.032 (0.013) 1.84 (0.3644) 0.730 (0.0271) 10.4 (7.32) 1.611 (3.391) 1.12 1.68# July 2 June 5 11.46 Apprioutable Earnings (Sm) Invesco English __Yr to Apr 5 * 162.1 (105.2) 1.45 (0.522) 2.96 (1.07) - 0.8 Earnings shown basic. Dividends shown net. Figures in brackets are for corresponding period. *Contraratives for 12 months. *After exceptional charge. †On increased capital, #Includer



WEEK IN THE MARKETS Cocoa at 10-month high

London Commodity Exchange cocoa futures climbed to the highest level for 10 months yesterday in response to aggressive buying on a wide

There are some big buyers out there - specs, funds, all of them," one trader told the Reuters news agency as the July delivery position raced to £1,048 a tonne in morning trading. At the end of the day it stood at £1,042 a tonne, up £27 on the day and £37 on the week and about 16 per cent above March's life-of-contract low.

This week's upturn was encouraged by constructive chart patterns, traders said, while some trading houses holding long positions were reported to be supporting the uptrend. Sentiment in the cocoa market had changed and "something important might be happening", Elli Gifford, technical analyst at Investment Research of Cambridge, told Reuters.

At the London Metal Exchange meanwhile copper values were given a boost by a sharp fall in exchange warehouse stocks. The 12,325-tonne reduction to 305,100 had been anticipated on Thursday, when the three months delivery price jumped by \$42 to \$2,544.50 a tonne. Another \$12.50 was added yesterday morning and by the close by the close the price stood at \$2,558.50 a tonne, up \$78.75 on the week.

LME traders told Reuters that the outlook for copper was murky. Some were caught off guard by this week's sharp short-covering rally, but still argued it was a correction in an overall bearish market.

Supply tightness continued to buoy lead prices and the three months quotation ended \$8 up on the week at \$808.50 a tonne, despite falling \$6 yester-

Another big rise in stocks depressed prices of aluminium early yesterday, which was

WEEKLY PRICE CHANGES

Gold per troy oz.

Lead (cash)
Nickel (cash)
Zinc SHG (cash)
Tiri (cash)
Tiri (cash)
Cocce Futures May
Coffee Futures May
Sugar (LOF Raw)

Barley Futures May Whest Futures May Cotton Outlook A in

Silver per troy oz Aluminium 99.7% (cash)

Copper Grade A (caety)

already the weak LME markets. But steadied with cop rise on the day le months position at tonne, down \$6 on the week. Traders noted that the price was not far above the first

level of technical support. The precious metals markets had a relatively quiet week with gold platinum and silver all ending modestly higher. The gold price eased slightly yesterday following mixed US

(As at Thursday's close)

to 776,075 - to 80,800 -12,325 to 99,660 -856 to 33,852 -4,300 to 624,875

price data, reflecting some disappointment and a pick-up in the bond market, dealers said. The US Consumer Price Index was up 0.4 per cent, compared with an expected 0.3 per cent, while retail sales were up 0.1 per cent, against the expected 0.3 per cent. "The US figures didn't give us anything posi-tive to go on," a dealer com-mented. "Everyone was hoping we'd come out with inflationary numbers again." In the oil markets concern

available for immediate delivery was exacerbated by unseaably cold weather in the US and Europe. That was reflected in a renewed uptrend that pushed the May delivery North Sea Brent crude to a five-year high of \$33.13 a barrel on Thursday. The price edged back yesterday. Analysts remained divided

over whether the 19 per cent surge in prices since the end of st month reflected temporary factors or more fundamental pressures. They noted that the market was vulnerable to a UN-brokered deal to allow Iraq to resume supplying limited amounts of oil to world markets, and to the possibility that increased overproduction by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries could be stimulated if prices remained high for long.

Change on week

+0.65

+3.10

-7.0 +99.5 +2.5 +2.5 +3.5 +30 +31 -2.2

+0.45 +0.40 +0.60

+2.06

\$394.15

365.00p

365,00p \$1538.5 \$2568.5 \$816.5 \$8255 \$1060.5 \$7450 \$1015 \$306.2

£1 12,85

Year

330.50p \$1824.0 \$2916.5

\$600.5

\$341.0

£102.30 £118.00 115.30

\$25p \$17,86

3373.0

287.90p \$1529.5 \$2486.5

\$680.5 \$7455 \$690.5 \$5980.0 \$2953 \$1570 \$201.8

E107.5

High

3027.5

2127.5

\$389.10 \$415.40 330.50p \$88.90p \$1824.0 \$1676.0

test of the	BASE METALS
the market per and \$3 ft the three	LONDON METAL EXCHA Prices from Amalgamated Metal Tradin at ALLIMBAUM, 92.7 PURITY (\$ per to
\$1.631.50 a	-

a vernamental and	Pulat p pa	er stand		
	Cash	3 mile		
Class	1596-99	1631-33		
Previous	1596-97	1828-25		
High/low	1694.5/1593	1633/162		
AM Official	1593.5-94	1626.5-2		
Kerb close		1624-25		
Open int.	213.118			
Total daily humover	49.161			
M ALUMENOUS ALL	OY S per turne	4		
Close	1350-80	1390-96		
Previous	1355-60	1392-95		
High/low		1400/139		
AM Official	1350-55	1390-94		
Kerb close		1300-93		
Onen int	5.500			

Open inc. Total daily tumover M LEAD (\$ per terms) Close Previous High/low AM Official 808-9 814-5 818/608 812-3 811-12 833.5-5.5 827/R25 Kerb dose 38,170 8,425 M NUCKEL & per botto

8335-40 8380-70 8350/8280 8280-85 8335-40 8250-80 8280-90 8196-200 39,727 10,223 TIN & per tonnel 6465-70 6450-60 6470/6440 6450-55 6430-40 8445-55 8425-35 6430-35

High/low AM Officia 17,352 4,710 W ZINC, special high grade (5 pe 1080-81 1061-82 1061.5 1085-86.5 1085-86 1090/1085 1085.5-86 AM Official Kerb class Open int. Total daily tumover 1061-61.5 67,385 10,607 III COPPER, grade A (\$ per tonne 2567-90 2558-59

2572/2571 2572-73 Open int, Total daily tumover 174,470 81,890 M LME AM Official E/S rate: 1.5140 LME Closing E/S rate: 1.5117

HIGH ORADE COPPER (COME) 119.30 +0.10 122.00 117.80 411 2.00 119.46 +0.00 120.50 117.45 10.321 18.019 118.10 +0.50 118.20 117.10 91 863 117.50 +0.70 118.00 115.70 3.00 8.670 116.55 +0.55 -114.40 11 551 117.50 +0.70 138.80 138.70 116.55 +0.55 - 114.40 11 115.60 +0.40 116.30 114.40 337 15.606 6

PRECIOUS METALS Prices supplied by N M Rothschild 394.00-394.30 395.40-395.80 395.20 394.75 395.40-395.80 E equity SFr equit 481.55 483.17 Day's High Day's Low

Dey's Low 363.80-394.20 Previous close 394.40-394.80 Loco Lide Mean Gold Lending Reins (% USS) 1 months 9,97 8 months 2 2 months 12 months 12 months 3.80 3 months Silver Pix Spot US can equity. 553.70 3 months 5 months 1 year 370.70 560.20 375.45 385.35 556.80 580.85 \$ price 383-396 405-00-407,55 92-96 £ equiv. 280-262 **Gold Cole**

Precious Metals continued WHEAT LCE (C per tonne) ■ GOLD COMEX (100 Tray az; \$/tray az) MGE -1.2 394.9 365.5 59 228 -12 -13 -17 -14 396.1 46,723,100,214 388.5 1,301 20,830 - 130 5,238 403.5 1,855 21,858 -15 4065 4065 5 5.126 IN PLATINUM NYMEX (50 Troy oz.; \$/troy oz.) IN WHEAT CET (5.000bu mir: certa/800b bushe)
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 409.5
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 -3.2
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 413.5
 46
 3,060

 418.7
 -3.2
 416.0
 416.0
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 1,076

 418.7
 -3.2
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 876
 2378 22598 E PALLADIUM NYMEX (100 Troy oz.; \$/troy oz.) III MARZE CST (5,000 by mir; cents/58b bushel) 138.75 -0.15 139.00 130.00 748 5,425 140.15 -0.15 138.50 139.50 4 1,051 141.25 -0.15 141.00 141.00 1 149 763 6,881 TE STLVER COMEX (5,000 Troy or; Genta/troy or.) \$50.9 4.0 \$50.0 \$50.0 1 1 \$51.8 -4.4 \$28.0 \$40.0 21,438 \$5,002 \$57.0 -4.4 \$28.0 \$40.0 21,438 \$5,002 \$57.0 -4.4 \$62.5 \$60.0 231 11,485 \$60.2 -4.4 \$71.0 \$67.0 200 \$,000 \$76.8 -4.4 \$51.0 \$77.0 100 2,305 \$576.8 -4.4 \$51.0 \$77.0 100 2,305 ENERGY IN CRUDE OIL NYMEX (42,000 US galle, \$/berrely | Calcal | C 19.79 19.57 17,774 41,856 10.20 18.90 13,618 53,884 18.90 18.75 5,446 19,486 184,382 486,880 IF CRUDE OIL IPE (\$/barrel) Lalest Day's price change America 400 -400 2. 20.11 -400 20.6. 18.78 -425 19.06 18.23 -420 18.27 10 17.73 -4.17 17.70 17.42 -4.16 17 22.78 22.08 25,05 37,920 20.56 20.11 23,146 84,906 18.08 18.78 7,506 64,900 18.27 18.03 2,874 19,277 17.76 17,58 1,010 13,446 17.45 17.28 570 5,479 48,430,217,480 HEATING OIL WINEY (42,000 IIS pals.; oils pals.)

\$2.90 -1,12 94.20 02.20 13,973 24.465 \$7.60 -1,37 86.85 \$7.50 8.550 15,952 \$4.80 -1,22 \$5.90 \$4.80 2,878 12,319 \$3.80 -0,47 \$4.90 \$3.85 2,477 10,125 \$3.70 -1,17 \$4.30 \$3.90 12.84 4,942 \$4.85 -0,72 \$4.85 \$4.85 477 2,486 \$2,823 94,844 Sett Say's price change High Low Val Brit 185.75 -2.00 180.75 185.00 6,883 19,464 175.75 -2.25 174.25 175.90 8,813 11,285 170.00 -1.25 171.75 165.50 185.50 400 5,923 164.25 -2.00 185.75 185.00 195 2,124 184.25 -2.00 185.00 184.75 38 1,114

ME NATURAL GAS WHEX (10,000 mmilts; \$/mmits) 250 +0.051 2.45 2.356 13.302 31.218 2.255 +0.021 2.355 2.825 5.800 24.342 2.316 +0.013 2.345 2.255 2.855 12.912 2.256 +0.030 2.257 1.159 14.554 2.255 +0.030 2.257 2.255 1.179 10.073 2.255 +0.030 2.270 2.255 1.179 10.073 Weal -1.60 74.25 72.10 15.380 23.570 -1.46 71.05 86.30 11.215 28.024 -0.85 67.00 86.20 2.951 12.344 -0.95 68.05 82.30 2.962 8.540 -0.90 59.65 59.50 1,142 3.761 +0.20 57.00 58.60 244 1,083 34.80 73.647

II LONG GELT FUTURES OPTIONS (LIFFE) 250,000 54ths of 100%

Sep 1-48 1-21 0-63

92.29 92.04 92.48 92.27 92.52 92.33 96.34 91.97 111.78 111.71 111.87 111.81 111.59 111.53 115.23 110.74

Jun 0-61 1-16 1-65

Jun 1-29 0-58 0-33

451.00 +6.50 453.00 430.00 41,944126,965 490.06 +7.00 430.06 434.00 84,826160,123 378.00 +2.25 380.00 370.00 24,829 52,803 380.00 -0.75 340.00 385.00 24,829 52,803 343.75 -4.75 344.00 385.00 1,462 11,150 343.50 -1.00 345.00 385.00 325.00 255.00 12,055 E COFFEE LCE (\$/torne) 1906 1860 1853 1839 1821 1796 III BARLEY LCE & per tornel 112.85 -0.66 113.00 112.90 34 110.80 -1.00 - - -112.40 -1.80 112.76 112.50 22 114.15 -1.85 - -III COFFEE 10" CSCE (37,5000bs; cents/fbs) 116.15 -1.85 IN SOYABLEANS CET (S./RORU MIT; CETTERED) (MISSEN) 796.00 +7.50 786.00 781.50 13.830 81,010
806.00 +8.75 806.00 791.50 45.210 72,854
806.25 +8.75 806.00 792.00 1,632 9,231
782.91 +3.25 796.90 775.00 34,572 85,385
713.75 +2.75 796.00 784.50 34,572 85,385
713.75 +2.75 796.00 784.50 481 4,912
80,222.74,036 114.50 # COFFEE (ICO) (US cents/pound) E SOYABEAN OIL CET (EO,DOODE CONTURE) 28.41 - 28.49 28.16 7,733 28.498 26.68 +0.04 28.90 28.56 11.534 44,082 27.02 +0.05 27.02 28.75 1,121 6,036 27.15 +0.05 27.15 28.95 005 2,031 27.25 +0.05 27.55 27.23 3,757 14,557 27.25 +0.05 27.55 27.23 3,757 14,557 WHITE SUGAR LCE BACKING IN SOYABEAN NEAL CET (100 tors \$/or) 2029 +4.5 203.7 247.5 10,121 25,848 207.0 +3.6 280.0 251.5 17,223 43,230 207.3 +4.5 258.2 251.6 926 7,865 264.3 +2.0 255.5 280.8 474 5,967 201.9 +1.6 202.8 246.0 716 3,173 251.6 +1.4 202.5 246.0 2,966 13,650 201.0 +1.4 202.5 246.0 2,966 13,650 W SUGAR "11" CSCE (112,000lbs; cants/fbs) III POTATOES LCE (E/torms) 157.5 +4.8 180.0 195.0 225.0 - - -105.0 - - -225.0 105.0 130.0 136.3 EL COTTON NYCE (SO,000EN, OWNER/EDG) +1.0 137,0 132.0 311 437 1430 1343 1295 1250 1309 - 1435 -17 1398 -5 1595 -8 1265 - 1315 -5 -936 718 181 1,916 784 56 1435 1345 1298 1256 1315 1388 36 40 52 54 64 246 Hay John Sept Hay Jan Tubal There were no auctions in Australia this week, though a large offering will provide a good test next week. The only significant auction was in New Zealand which brought withdrawate of ower 50% other dissettistaction over prices being bid. Prices seemd and the owerell meriest indicator felt to a seasonal low of 489cts from 480cts before Easter. The strength of the Australian and New Zealand dollar is increasing important wool costs for many users around the world who in turn reduced their buying limits. Obline shows title eign of returning to the meriest with the strength which pushed prices to their 1906 posits. There were no auctions in Australia this week Open interest and Volume data shown for contracts traded on COMEX, NYMEX, CBT, NYCE, CME and CSCE are one day in arreare. INDICES ■ REUTERS (Base: 18/9/31=100)

GRAINS AND OIL SEEDS

price camps high Law 125.35 +0.40 125.35 124.30 128.35 +0.45 126.10 127.30 116.65 -1.40 116.85 116.25 118.00 -1.75 116.40 117.55 118.00 -1.75 118.40 118.50 121.50 -1.50 -

\$22.50 +18.00 \$58.00 \$48.00 \$1,253 13,519 \$54.50 +18.00 \$37.00 \$22.00 \$4,146 \$2,641 \$82.00 +15.00 \$37.00 \$27.50 \$4,146 12,621 \$82.00 +15.00 \$550.00 \$27.50 \$4,146 12,621 \$850.00 +15.75 \$60.00 \$50.00 \$27 764 \$450.50 +15.90 \$460.00 \$201 \$27.50 \$27.50 \$460.00 \$27.5

234 53 53

135 78 1,923, 545 59

Sel 8,141

4,146 12,521 247 764 351 875 42,647 97,723

1,081

SOFTS

E COCOA LCE (E/tonne)

M COCOA CSCE (10 to

+17 +18 +17 +17 +14 +14

III COCCA (CCO) (SDR's/Ionna

E LIVE CATTLE CME (40,000lbs; centa/lbs) Sett Bay's Price change tigh Low 80.325 +0.475 60.525 59.850 61.275 +0.275 61.800 61.025 998 4,200 13,565 1024 5,573 24,445 1055 1,885 42,894 61.275 +0.275 61.805 61.925 15.422 161.275 +0.275 61.800 61.925 15.422 15.425 62.500 -0.025 62.830 62.100 6.503 64.225 +0.075 64.475 54.000 3.780 162.630 -0.075 63.030 62.475 2.036 163.030 -0.125 63.400 63.025 1.476 1018 1,434 19,200 1025 953 40,982 1036 753 13,708 2 096 10,700 54.275 -0.175 54.476 53.850 1,485 3,991 57.850 -0.775 \$8.100 57.300 5,625 19,990 64.875 -0.850 \$5.375 54.850 1,812 7,529 50.425 -0.325 50.500 50.000 1,274 5,792 48.850 -0.500 47.200 48.850 859 3,646 1389 1351 3,857 10,898 1399 1372 4,529 22,804 1495 1390 811 14,544 1415 1400 350 11,795 1425 1435 8 4,807 8,446 84,794 48.525 -0.480 49.000 49.500 PORK SELLES CME (40,000fbs; cents/fbs) 72,975 -2,000 74,700 72,975 1,910 4,989 72,575 -2,000 74,700 72,575 1,431 3,915 70,125 -2,000 71,850 70,125 428 1,262 67,150 -1,825 69,200 97,125 51 376 68,000 -2,000 68,550 88,000 1 9 72,500 -0,250 68,550 88,000 3 3 4 -3 1925 1890 1,545 12,729 +3 1973 1840 1,448 8,595 +4 1984 1830 371 4,219 +5 1855 1827 56 2,405 +8 - 1,238 +1 - 901 72,500 -0.250 LONDON TRADED OPTIONS Strike price \$ tonne -- Calls E ALLINGALIA 115.25 -1.85 119.40 115.00 3.821 11.303 119.20 -1.90 119.00 118.10 2.772 9.784 115.39 -1.35 118.20 115.00 297 4.513 114.00 -2.50 117.00 114.00 41 2.794 114.50 - 4 529 114.50 - 188 96 52 25 E COPPER (Grade A) LIME 98 55 5 34 110 8,785 M.54 Prov. day 106.13 105.21 E COFFEE LCE EL COCCOA LCE -8.7 486.0 381.5 2,865 3,079 -2.5 386.0 388.0 2,582 10,329 -1.5 345.4 344.0 380 5,482 -2.8 334.5 332.6 322 3,000 -0.5 328.3 323.2 5 1,805 +1.2 - 977 170 E184 24.475 LONDON SPOT MARKETS E CRUDE Oil FOB (per barrel) \$18,13-8,28× \$22,79-2,83 \$22,19-2,23 E OF PRODUCTS NY 85.98 -0.76 86.90 85.87 4.819 16.917 87.87 -0.76 86.10 87.15 3.748 20,422 85.00 -0.80 83.50 82.80 187 2,222 81.20 -0.85 81.25 80.76 1,275 22,000 81.86 -0.10 82.93 81.80 43 2,007 82.48 -0.10 82.93 82.30 41 1,076 \$237-259 Heavy Fuel Oil Naphths Jet fuel Diesei M KATURAL GAS (Pero 6,000 GE,131 9.20-9.40 132.75 +43.75 132.75 131.80 1.071 11,432 130.85 +0.40 131.00 122.90 518 5.414 122.35 +0.45 122.90 122.00 187 2,898 123.10 -0.15 122.90 122.00 6 831 132.35 -0.25 122.55 122.75 1 3.095 125.45 -0.05 125.50 125.90 4 185 Petroleum Argus, 7st. OTHER Gold (per tray at) § Silver (per tray at) § Pletinum (per tray at.) Palladium (per tray at.) 551,50c \$406.00 \$136.25 Copper Leed (US prod.) Tin (Kuele Lumpur) Tin (New York) 125.0c 45.00c 15.90r 803.5 Cattle (tive weight) Sheep (tive weight) Pigs (tive weight)† 100,23p 191,36p 106,11p Lon. day sugar (vaw) Lon. day sugar (whe) Seriey (Eng. feed) Maize (US NoS Yellow) Whest (US Derk North) \$306,3 \$404.0 Unq 148,5 Unq. Rubber (May* Rubber (Mn)* Rubber (KL, RSS No1) 98.25p 98.25p 388.50m Coconut Of (Philips Palm Of (Maley.)\$ Copra (Philips Soysbeans (US) Cotton Outpook'A' Index \$750.0v \$530.0 470.0v

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-0.74

+1.5

+0.05

-0.45 +0.50 -1.75 -1.75

+4.0

+0.03

+5.71° +5.02°

-7,5

+2.5 -10.0

227.DV

444p

ope (64s Super)

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK

MARKET REPORT

By Conner Middelmann in London and Lisa Bransten in New York

European government bond markets followed US bonds higher. Europe's higher-yielding sector put on a particularly good performance, boosted by the strong US currency. The dollar's gains against the D-Mark have helped most European currencies and are boosting prospects for further interest rate cuts, which is supporting bonds," said Mr Gra-ham McDevitt, senior bond strategist at Paribas Capital

The Dutch central bank took advantage of its currency's strength, cutting rates yesterday to lower its "special advances rate" by 10 basis points to a post-war low of 2.8 per cent. In Portugal, the central bank cut its repo rate by 20 basis points to 7.60 per cent. Spanish bonds were among the day's top performers. The 10-year bond futures Meff rose 1.22 point to 97.30, while the Spanish 10-year yield spread over Germany fell to 283 basis points, from 307 on Thursday. Italian bonds also rallied.

The BTP June future on Liffe rose by 0.80 point to 110.45. Even UK gilts managed to shake off bad political news -another Conservative party by-election defeat - to end the day nearly a point higher. The UK 10-year yield spread over Germany narrowed to 173 basis points, from 186 on Thursday, while the long gilt future on Liffe rose by 2 to 106%.

Bunds lagged most European markets, with the bund future on Liffe rising by 0.43 point to \$6.19.

96.19.
US Treasury bonds reversed their string of sharp losses early yesterday on press reports that Mr Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve chair-man, believes the markets had overreacted to fears of rising inflationary pressures. Near midday, the benchmark

30-year Treasury was up 1½ at 89½ to yield 8.817 per cent. At the short end, the two-year note rose ½ to 100½, yielding 5.954 per cent, the first time it has been below 6 per cent since

US INTEREST RATES Treesury Bliks and Sond Yields. Two year Third year Flor year 10-year 30-year

BOND FUTURES AND OPTIONS MOTIONAL FRENCH BOND FUTURES (MATF) FF-500,000 Satt price Change 121.94 +0.30 120.62 +0.32 119.32 +0.16 High 122,00 120,60 119,14 Low Est. vol. Open int. 121,76 120,44 119,14 121.58 120.30 119.14 167,795 447 2 144,871 5,220 664

II LONG TERM FRENCH BOND OPTIONS (NATIF) **PUTS** 5ep 1.05 1.80 2.39 3.04 Jen 0.24 0.38 0.63 1.01 May 0 02 0 06 0 15 0 52 0.92

Germany Open 95.53 95.00 Est. vol Open int. 155152 199891 90 5535 Sett price Change 96.15 +0.38 95.26 +0.37 High 95.26 95.10 96.77 95.00 E BUND FUTURES OPTIONS (LIFFE) DN250,000 points of 100% Sep 1.76 2.05 2.27

April 4.

The gains came despite data on retail sales and consumer prices that suggested the econ---- CALLS --km Jul
86 067
80 0.48
39 0.34 Jun 0.86 08.0 Sep 1.02 0.81 0.83 0.34 0.59 0.85 omy was strengthening. BENCHMARK GOVERNMENT BONDS

Jun 0.71 0.95 1.24 Month Week 8.80 6.43 6.43 7.58 7.44 5.71 8.55 6.37 7.98 10.45 8.31 8.36 9.31 8.57 8.50 7.42 8.57 8.57 8.57 8.59 6.69

M NOTIONAL ITALIAN GOVT. BOND (LIFFE) Life 200m 100ths of 100% Open Sett price Change Est. vol. Open int. 42543 46861 0 256 High LOW 11043 110.60 +0.78 109.67 III ITALIAN GOVT, BOND (STP) FUTURES OPTIONS (LIFFE) Lington 100ths of 100% Strike Price 11009 11050 11100 2.40 2.17 1.95 1.65 1.36 1.12 1.22 1.45 1.69

2.52 2.79 3.07 Spain IN HOTIONAL SPANISH WOND FUTURES (MEET) Set price Change High Est, vol. Open Int. 98.32 97.31 +1.22 97.44 96.32 77,084 Inmes Maxwell UK **Market-Eye** Open 194-22 Sett price Change 105-21 +0-29 104-18 +0-29 LOW Est. vol. Open Int. High 104-19 63785 115826 185

CALLS Jul 1-14 0-83 0-35 Strike Price 105 106 107 40-16 +0-15 +0-16 108-27 108-10 107-24 108-22 108-04 107-20 106-08 107-23 107-09 478,120 370,015 7,587 22,927 2,729 4,658 Japani

NOTIONAL LONG TERM JAPANESE GOVT. SOND FUTURES
(LIPTE) Y100m 100tm of 100% M ECU BOND PUTURES (MATIF) ECU100,000 Set price Change High 90.30 +0.40 90.36 Est. vol Open int. Open 89.86 Low Est. vol. Open int. 118.40 118.50 118.34 1775 +0.40 2,983 7,776 FT-ACTUARIES FIXED INTEREST UNDICES 1 Lip to 5 years (24) 2 5-15 years (18) 3 Over 15 years(4) 4 irredocumbins (5) 5 All stocks (58) 121,47 145,47 159,57 162,51 140,98 2.43 2.55 3.48 1.47 2.57 Apr 12 Apr 11 Yr ago High Apr 12 Apr 11 Yr ago High Low Low 7.66 8.31 8.37 8.40 8.21 7.67 (26/3) 8.29 8.38 (28/3) 8.28 8.44 (12/3) 8.34 8.48 (12/3) 6.68 (18/1) 7.50 (18/1) 7.63 (18/1) 7.75 (25/1) 8.29 7,71 (28/3) 8.35 8,40 (28/3) 8.35 8,45 (28/3) 7.82 8.24 8.29 7.68 8.33 8.38 3.00 3.02 3.19 4.17 (10/1) 3.74 3.77 3.79 3.95 (9/3) 1.71 1,73 1.54 2.96 (10/1) 3.77 (9/3) Average gross redemption yields are shown above. Coupon Bands: Low: 0%-74/%; Medium: 8%-104/%; High: 11% and over. † Flat yield, yid Year to daily Base values: UK Gilbs Indiose 31/12/75 = 100.00 and Index-Linked 30/4/82 = 100.00, * 1895 highs and love. FT FIXED INTEREST INDICES GILT EDGED ACTIVITY INDICES Apr 12 Apr 11 Apr 10 Apr 9 Apr 4 Yrago High' Low'

Apr 11

84.5 87.8

Apr 10

94.2

76.9

Apr 12 Apr 11 month ago 2117.0 2120.6 2130.1

Apr 10 month ago 258.91 247.90

CRB Putures (See: 1987=100)

Apr 11 - Apr 10 month ago 218.88 215.56 195.31

E 9801 Spot (Base: 1970-100)

Apr 11 200.65

UK GILTS PRICES -\$ 100 1004
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Midland*

Bidder

£1.9bn

Norweb

North West Wate

Value of bid

£1.8bn

Manweb

Scottish Power

New owner

Weish Water

PowerGen ...

Mr Blair in the radical centre

By-elections in the UK are notoriously fickle guides to the succeeding general election. With the national contest probably still a year away, it would be foolish to predict certain Conservative defeat, still more a landslide Labour victory. Of far greater moment for British politics is the congruence of Thursday's Tory rout, in a fairly prosperous Mid-lands constituency, with Mr Tony Blair's most forthright renunciation yet of the Labour party's socialist heritage.

The speech could not have been

more symbolic. Mr Blair was addressing US businessmen, as part of a US visit which saw him feted by Washington's Democratic elite from President Clinton downwards. Disdaining any mention of the word socialism, the Labour leader dubbed "New Labour" the party of the "radical centre". Its mission was to create a dynamic "one nation" society where "the days of reflex tax and spend politics are over" and every incentive is given to "entrepreneurs, innovators and wealth creators".

Stripped to its policy core, Mr John Major could have repeated the speech almost word for word. The only notable excisions would have been the pledges to a mini-mum wage, the EU social chapter, and playing "a more positive role in European affairs generally". Yet the last of these mirrors Mr Major's own commitment, on becoming Tory leader, to put Britain "in the heart of Europe", while the first two were carefully bedged by statements like: "There is no question of trying to impose a German-style social security system in Britain through the social

Strong leadership

The crucial point about the speech is its credibility. Tory leaders long ago stopped deriding Mr Blair as a "pale imitation" of Lady Thatcher. Mr Blair daily preaches his determination to take up where she left off, and his popularity lies in a similar combination of strong leadership with an acute perception of the fears and insecurities of Middle England. Even Mr John Prescott, Labour's blunt deputy leader chosen for his trade union roots, yesterday proudly declared himself "middle class".

In politics, perception is all. Mr Major, Mr Kenneth Clarke and most of their cabinet colleagues are also in the "radical centre". But their party appears weak, directionless, and too easily swayed by its extremists. Unless Mr Major can change that perception, he is doomed. Yet as the elecbecomes harder for him to do so. It is important to ask, then, what Mr Blair's radical centre would represent in government. A parallel is often drawn with President Clinton, a politician who transformed the image of his "left-wing" party; won office, and may retain it for a second term; but has done precious little "radical" with power.

There are obvious similarities. Like Mr Clinton, Mr Blair will, if elected, work broadly within inherited fiscal disciplines. He will go out of his way to reassure the City and middle-class taxpayers. And his election manifesto will consist largely of Clintonesque platitudes about "security" and

Control of parliament Also like Mr Clinton, Mr Blair will have a few solid commitments

dividing him from his predecessor notably to constitutional reforms led by Scottish devolu-tion. But unlike Mr Clinton, be will have the means to implement them. British governments control parliament: even if Labour's majority is small or dependent upon minor parties, there will be no Mr Newt Gingrich in conten-

British governments with strong leaders tend to radicalise in office largely because they wield such untrammelled power. There may be plenty of scope for Mr Blair to follow suit. The question is, on what front would he strike out? Two areas suggest themselves: welfare reform and European pol-

Labour will probably say little concrete about either in its manifesto. But coded shadow cabinet speeches about the need for "inno vative approaches" to issues such benefits-into-work and enhanced second pension provision are pointers. Nor can there be much doubt that Mr Blair offers a genuinely more favourable approach to European integration than Mr Major, constrained as the prime minister is not just by recalcitrant backbenchers (which Labour can match) but also by deep Euroscepticism within the cabinet (not so evident in the shadow cabinet).

The most revealing section of Mr Blair's New York speech lay in its comments about Europe. Of the single currency, he said: "We do not see, as the Conservatives do, an over-riding constitutional objection, but there are significant economic difficulties which are not yet resolved." Were the single currency to go ahead, Mr Blair will feel strongly tempted to join tion draws nearer, and the govern-ment's majority falls lower, it truly radical implications. at some point. That would have

The electricity switchback

Approval for generators to take over regional companies would launch a wave of restructuring in the electricity industry, says David Wighton

Plugged into new

ownership: the regional

electricity companies

he controversy over the future of the UK electricity industry was renewed yesterday with the leak of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report into the latest takeover bids in the

The report recommends that National Power's bid for Southern Electric and PowerGen's offer for Midlands Electricity be allowed creating integrated generation and distribution companies. If the report's recommendations are accepted by Mr Ian Lang, trade and industry secretary, it will reverse the separation of generation from distribution put in place at privati-

A minority report by Ms Patricia Hodgson, the BBC's director of policy and planning, says such a move would reduce competition and tend to increase prices - a line that found sympathy among some of the But the large generators argued that competition would be enhanced by the creation of five or six large, vertically integrated

Whatever the effects on competition, the go-ahead for National Pow-er's bid for Southern Electric and PowerGen's offer for Midlands Electricity is expected to trigger a series of further bids in the huge industry restructuring which started at the end of 1994.

Mr John Reynolds, electricity analyst at stockbrokers James Capel, said the takeovers would lead to further cost reduction in the industry which the regulator would ensure was passed through to con-sumers. "This change of ownership is aimed directly at increasing efficiency which should be very good for customers. It will certainly put more pressure on the remaining independent regional electricity

In the past year, seven of the 12 regional electricity companies which distribute power to consumers have been the subjects of bids. all but one of which have been successful. Analysts believe that several potential buyers, including overseas utilities, are poised to bid for the four remaining independent

Despite this wave of activity, the structure of the industry has not yet changed radically. There have been no mergers between recs and of the six taken over, only one has been acquired by a company with any other interests in the UK electricity industry. South Western Electricity and Seeboard have been bought by US

acquired by the water companies in their regions, and the largest of the recs, Eastern, was the subject of an agreed takeover by Hanson, the industrial conglomerate. In regulatory terms, the most significant deal was the acquisition by Scottish Power, after a fiercely fought hostile bid, of Manweb, the

Chester-based rec. This was the

only bid to raise the question of whether it was desirable to bring

utilities. Norweb and Swalec were

together a generator with a distributor in a vertically integrated com-

When the electricity industry in England and Wales was privatised in 1990, generation was deliberately kept separate from the supply and distribution of electricity which was in the hands of the recs. The government believed that, at that stage, integrated companies would have too much market power and might sell their own electricity to their captive consumers even if

In Scotland, by contrast, the industry was privatised as two integrated companies - Scottish Power and Scottish Hydro-Electric. Although Scottish Power supplies only a limited amount of electricity

to the market in England and

Wales, Professor Stephen Littlechild, the industry regulator, concluded that the increased level of vertical integration was worthy of an MMC investigation. However, Mr Lang ignored his advice and waved the hid through.

New owner

his controversial decision, coupled with pri-vate indications that the government had nothing against vertical integralands, National Power, which had previously strenuously denied any intention of buying a rec, swiftly agreed a deal with Southern.

To the surprise of companies and investors alike, Mr Lang referred both bids to the MMC. This was widely seen as inconsistent with the decision in the Scottish Power bid. and critics said Mr Lang was merely responding to the political pressure for a review amid the

Southern*

Bidder

Northern

Trafalgar House

Eastern

New owner

Hanson

Value of bid

New owner

Central &

South West

Value of bid

flurry of bids. They also suggested that it would have been difficult for Mr Lang to ignore the advice of both the regulator and Mr John Bridgeman, the director-general of fair trading, who for the first time agreed an electricity bid should be referred.

Most of the opponents of the takeovers, notably independent rece as Northern Electric, have argued that the increase in vertical integration is not the issue. After all, vertical integration is already increasing in England and Wales. Almost all the recs have developed generation interests, while National Power and PowerGen are now large suppliers of electricity in the commercial and industrial markets where the recs' supply monopoly has been removed.

Mr John Reynolds, electricity analyst at James Capel, the stockbrokers, also points out that the vertical integration of the Scottish industry appears to have worked well. Vertical integration brings some benefits and the MMC has praised the Scottish industry for its

In its submission to the MMC opposing the takeovers, Northern Electric said the problem lay in the combination of increased vertical integration and with the dominant position of National Power and PowerGen in the wholesale power market in England and Wales.

In an attempt to reduce this influence, the regulator has required the two generators to make large disposals of generating stations. PowerGen has already agreed to lease two plants to Hanson's Eastern subsidiary, which is also in the bidding for three National Power stations

Even after these disposals, how-ever, it is estimated that the two generators will still set the price in the wholesale market 60 per cent of the time. Rivals are worried that allowing them a significantly higher share of the supply market will put competitors at a serious

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The head of one of the remaining independent recs claimed the impact could be so severe that the company would have to consider selling itself to a larger group. "If the bids go through I will be on the phone immediately asking to join the club."

But the MMC's majority report concludes the plant disposals enforced on the generators will mean that there will be "a broadly satisfactory competitive environment from 1997". It adds that the loss of the recs' monopoly over supply to homes in 1998 should rease competition further.

Mr Dieter Helm, director of Oxford Economic Research Associates, says that whatever the problems caused by the generators' dominance of the pool, they would be made only marginally worse by allowing the bids.

For the City, the arguments about the pros and cons of the bids are now largely irrelevant since Mr Lang is widely expected to give PowerGen and National Power the go-ahead to renew their offers by the end of this month.

Investors had expected a positive regulatory response and renewed bids from the generators - so share prices rose only modestly yesterday. But some analysts believe the markets are underestimating the prices that Southern and Midlands will be able to extract from the generators.

Mr Reynolds predicts the gen tors will be forced to pay about 5 per cent more than the current market prices for Southern and Midlands, and that bids for some of the other regional companies are likely. Whatever the outlook for electricity consumers, the party is not yet over for investors.

·LETTERS TO THE EDITOR·

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Strong euro may prove to be highly regarded in EU

Sir Robert Poston says the name for the new European currency the cure - is infelicatous "Referendum for a rainy day", April 3). Others have also been dismissive. This is all rather odd, particularly in view of the popularity, not least among journalists, of adding Euro- to all sorts of things. If Germans make an association between the health of the D-Mark and their regard for

Vague view of

Christianity

their country, then might not people make an obvious, and positive, connection between a strong euro and the European

is this not the real, and rather clever, reason the name was chosen, and isn't this what many untionalists really fear?

Peter Coldrick. 277 rue au bois, Brussels B-1150, Belgium From Mr Alan Pavelin. realised that the government's referendum proposal is heavily weighted against joining a single

European currency.

If the UK cabinet and parliament approve joining, the electorate will have the chance of vetoing that decision through a referendum. If. however, either the cabinet or parliament decides against Britain joining, the electorate will have no

"democracy" which the Eurosceptic advocates of a referendum have been claiming to uphold. I am amazed that Kenneth Clarke, the chancellor of the exchequer, was taken in by this.

Alan Pavelin 172 Leesons Hill, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6QL, UK

Unfortunate view of cherished opera singer

From Mr Aliston Budd. Sir. Philip Crowe assigns a rather vague and nebulous purpose to Christianity into worship and share in communion with other people, and to work for justice") in his interview with the Gospel writers ("The muscle on breakfast radio" April 6 7). Christianity provides a interpreter, Cheryl Studer deep and satisfying response to mankind's spiritual hunger.

Christ Jesus responded to humanity's need for healing and salvation in a practical and effective way. Jesus commanded his disciples to heal the sick and cast out demons: and said: "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shaii he do also" (John 14:12). The Book of Acts records how the disciples responded to Jesus' words. A deeper commitment to the practice of genuine Christian healing is needed in the Christian church today.

Alistair Budd, 20 rue du Nord, CH-1180 Rolle, Switzerland

From Mr Ronald J. Byrne. Sir. It was hardly necessary for your opera critic, David Murray, to insult the memory of the late Lucia Popp in his review of the revival of the Royal Opera's Arabella ("Belle of the ball is back", March 29). He Mr Murray so despises. was hardly more flattering in his description of the current

("matroniy figure", indeed'). Lucia Popp was a singer greatly cherished by British audiences who were fortunate enough to hear her.

whether in London or, occasionally, at the Edinburgh Festival where she was the most charming and natural of recitalists with none of the "grande dame" qualities which

Mr Murray can surely indicate his preference for a particular singer without abuse of his her rivals. The character of Arabella is particularly complex, in some places seeming cold and calculating. There have in fact been many fine Arabellas. notably Elizabeth Schwarzkonf.

Gundula Janowitz, and Kiri Te Kanawa, as well as Popp and Lisa Della Casa. It is perhaps unfortunate that Cheryl Studer, after early success in Strauss and Wagner, moved on to roles such as Lucia and Aida, otherwise she might well have joined the select

Ronald J. Byrae, Top Flat Left, 203 Crow Road,

Scottish scheme identifies BSE-free herds

Sir, Your article "Minister seeks to limit EU slaughter demand" (April 6) quotes Lord Lindsay as speaking of the inability "to distinguish the beef coming from BSE-free herds and other herds and therefore undermining the Scottish

quality assurance scheme". This remark by the Scottish Office minister responsible for agriculture needs correcting. The whole point of the Scottish quality

farm assurance scheme is to be able to trace animals right back to their farm of birth and this is in fact

Also, no farmer can be a member of the scheme unless he has been BSE-free for six years. A large number of Scottish beef herds are members of this farm assurance scheme. Every herd has its individual registration number carried by a metal tag in the animal's ear. Since 1995, this

number has been unique for the whole EU. Before then the number was unique in the UK I am very surprised that Lord Lindsay does not appear to be

aware of the rules and records of

his own department. G.D. James, Killiemore. Kirkcowan, Newton Stewart Wigtowashire, DG8 0BS, UK

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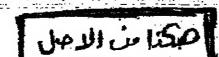
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ainer Gut, chairman of CS Holding, the financial services

group built around the Credit Suisse bank, has

long been admired by his peers for his willingness to take bold

But the feeling yesterday in Switzerland and the City of

London was that Mr Gut, now

in the twilight of his career,

had made an embarrassing

gaffe when he proposed

merger talks with rival Union

Bank of Switzerland last week.

The idea, briskly rejected by

UBS, could have created the

world's second largest bank

after the recently merged

Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi,

with assets of some SFr800bn

and significant shares in all

important international finan-

After a Zurich newspaper

statement claiming a merger would be the kind of far-

sighted solution needed to address "the challenges

thrown up by the globalisation

of financial services and the continuing restructuring pro-

banking industry".

cess within Switzerland's

But there was also, as so often in Mr Gut's strategic

moves, an attempt to take

quick advantage of a perceived

opportunity. UBS's largest shareholder, the maverick Zur-

cial markets.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Man in the News Rainer Gut

Gambler runs out of luck

Ian Rodger on the Swiss banker whose merger plan met a sharp rebuff

ich broker Martin Ebner, has nalling he might vote those, been rallying support among other shareholders to block the board's nomination of Robert Studer, the former chief executive, as chairman at next Tuesday's annual sharehold-

ers' meeting. In the past few weeks, the impression had been growing in Switzerland that Mr Ebner might succeed, as many large Swiss institutional fund managers were expressing dissatisfaction with Mr Studer's got wind of the proposal on Tuesday, Mr Gut rushed out a

Credit Suisse said in its statement that a merger dis-cussion "could help ease the current confrontation between UBS and one of its big shareholders". But according to UBS, Mr Gut went much further in his telephone conversa-tion with its chairman, Nikolaus Senn, insisting on an answer to his merger proposal before the UBS meeting

UBS suspected that Credit Suisse, being a large Swiss securities dealer, might have a lot of UBS shares on its books. perhaps, decisive shares against Mr Studer unless it went along with his merger

Credit Suisse indignantly denied any attempt to blackmail UBS, but there was little it could do but retreat meakly when its rival brusquely rejected the merger idea.

Unless the clever Mr Gut is

working on a longer range plan, his initiative is begin-ning to look like a botched attempt to imitate the spectacular exit last month by another grand old man of the Swiss business scene, Sandoz's Marc Moret. Mr Moret, who is 73, had been fending off pretenders to his throne for years, but he elegantly eliminated the issue earlier this year by concluding a merger agree-ment with Basle neighbour

Mr Gut, who is a Clba director, is said to have been much impressed by this deal. Now 64 and having dominated Credit Suisse since 1982, he, too, may have seen an opportunity to make a dramatic and timely structure for the whole group

Even before the UBS merger proposal, Mr Gut's image in Swiss business circles was showing signs of tarnish. His last big coup, the

SFr1.6bn takeover of Swiss Volksbank in 1992, has gone hadly wrong. It was a costly decision. Credit Suisse has had to spend more than SFr300m on restructuring Volksbank, and last summer removed more than SFr6bn in dodgy loans from the bank so that it could have a fresh start.

Privately, Credit Suisse officials admit the group might be better off today if it had never taken on Volksbank and had instead got out of retail bank-ing in the overcrowded Swiss market. But they still believe that in the long term the decision to buttress their domestic funding base will pay off.

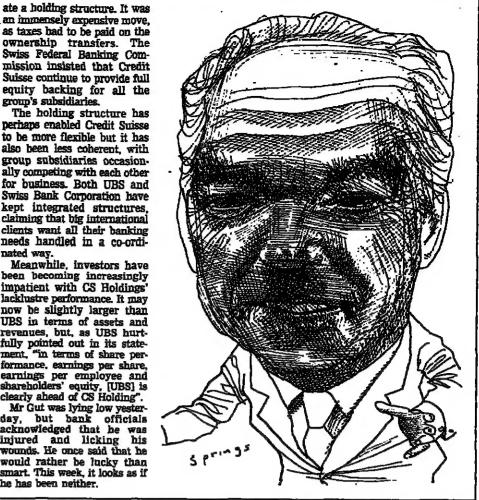
The group's other big strate-gic moves under his leadership acquiring control of the First US and creating a holding

as taxes bad to be paid on the ownership transfers. The Swiss Federal Banking Commission insisted that Credit Suisse continue to provide full equity backing for all the group's subsidiaries. The holding structure has

perhaps enabled Credit Suisse to be more flexible but it has also been less coherent, with group subsidiaries occasionally competing with each other for business. Both UBS and Swiss Bank Corporation have kept integrated structures. claiming that big international clients want all their banking needs handled in a co-ordinated way. Meanwhile, investors have

been becoming increasingly impatient with CS Holdings' lacklustre performance. It may now be slightly larger than UBS in terms of assets and revenues, but, as UBS hurtfully pointed out in its statement, "in terms of share performance, earnings per share, earnings per employee and shareholders' equity, [UBS] is clearly ahead of CS Holding".

Mr Gut was lying low yesterday, but bank officials acknowledged that he was injured and licking his would rather be lucky than smart. This week, it looks as it



Ratcatcher fails to show its teeth

Rentokil's bid for BET has been less hostile than other recent takeovers, says Geoff Dyer

tile £2.1bn takeover bid for the rival business services group BET seven weeks ago, there was a strong sense of déjà vu in the City.

To many people it looked uncomfortably like a re-run of the £3.3bn Granada takeover of Forte, which had just been completed amid acrimony and accusations of asset-stripping. The bid thrust into the limelight Mr Clive Thompson, Rentokil's chief executive and - like Granada's Mr Gerry Rob-

inson - one of the golden boys among City fund managers. Smooth-talking and immaculately turned out, Mr Thompson is not short on self-belief. And like Mr Robinson, he porate track record and

boasted superior management skills. On the same day as Rentokil launched its bid, Mr Thompson unveiled an increase in earnings and profits of more than 20 per cent for the 14th year in a row. The target company also

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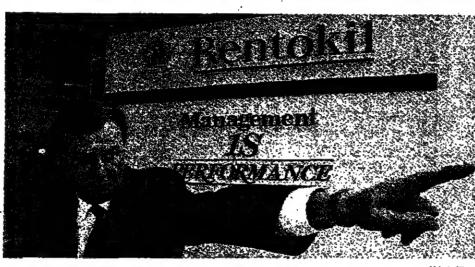
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bore some similarities to Forte. BET had recovered from near disaster in the early 1990s, when a debt-financed acquisition binge had nearly taken it down. Under the leadership since 1991 of Mr John Clark, a former US marine. BET claimed, like Forte, now to be producing impressive results: which the market was ignor-

The déjà vu was reinforced when the bid began with a round of personal insults. According to Mr Thompson, who this week raised Rentokil's offer by 14p per share: "BET was a company that was on the floor before Mr Clark took over, and it is now below

f the floorboards." But the comparisons ended after the first few days. While Granada and Forte kept the pyrotechnics going throughout the bid, the Rentokil-BET match has been a much more low-key affair. One institutional shareholder described it

as a "damp squib". Some institutions are understood to have advised both sides against starting a public slanging match, which they said had been an unwelcome



Golden boy: Rentokil's chief Clive Thompson has been thrust into the limelight by the bid

part of the Granada-Forte bid. They added that BET had only a small proportion of private shareholders - the group that would be most susceptible to

oped by Forte, involving prom-ises of special dividends and disposals of assets. The group ... After hitting its 20 per cent had little scope for paying spe profits and earnings targets for cial dividends, since this would so many years, some analysis have endangered its future capital spending plans, the core of its defence.

A rapid disposals programme was also ruled out. After the group had spent the previous three years streamlining to a size Mr Clark said he was comfortable with, any disposals would have seemed like a panic measure. The companies he might have considered selling - such as its cleaning, recruitment and catering businesses - are low-margin concerns which would have been unlikely to fetch a good price in the circumstances of a bid.

suitors willing to act as a "white knight" by making a higher offer for BET. As two of the biggest business services companies in the world, BET and Rentokil are almost unique and probably too large

for rivals to swallow. Nor has there been a real debate over strategy in this bid. Both chief executives have attempted to stir things up: Mr Clark insists that Rentokil wants to create a "muddled" conglomerate and will sell a Mr Thompson claims BET is now on its third strategy in three years, with little idea of how to grow margins. But shareholders have, by and BET's biggest shareholders.

large, taken a relaxed view. Says one: "When it comes down to it, this bid has always been about price and little

BET has thus adopted a two-BET has shunned the sort of pronged defence. The first elerecord and stock market rating - and it has been a failure.

so many years, some analysis felt that the scrutiny of a hostile takeover bid might expose some flaws in Rentokil's track record. However BET has not been able to reveal anything that undermines the Rentokil record. Since the begining of the bid, Rentokil's shares have risen from to 388p to 351p.

he second element of emphasising BET's growth record has been more successful. It was a slow start - some shareholders and analysts had become accustomed to to Forte's more dramatic style -There has been no queue of but gradually Mr Clark has been able to get his message

across.

The group has produced a healthy increase in profits for the year to March 31, which are forecast to have risen by 32 per cent. A 28 per cent rise in dividends has been promised, with a further 20 per cent increase assured for next year. Mr Clark has insisted that BET is now a fast-growing group, with the resources to spend heavily in sales and marketing and a strategy focused on high-margin areas. At times he has boasted many of the qualities Mr Thompson done rather well," says one of

"He has mounted a spirited defence, with some good profits and dividend forecasts. However Mr Clark has been

unable to shake off the impression that he might be happy to return to the US, having deliv-BET's shareholders - despite his protestations that "I chose to live in this country." His cause has not been helped by the news that he will make over £5m from bonuses and options if the bid goes through. Meanwhile Mr Thompson has largely kept out of the limelight since his initial burst of publicity when the offer was

launched, emerging only to respond to BET's barbs. But he was back to his confident self this week when Rentokil increased its offer. Responding to suggestions that the group's growth was slowing, he claimed: "We have the opportunity and potential to keep growing by 20 per cent for the next 50 years."

With two weeks to go before the offer closes, the two chief executives have now begun a gruelling trip around the institutions, lobbying for their support. The initial indications from BET's biggest shareholders is that they will side with

But Mr Clark is not giving up. "There is an old joke that ex-marines never get tired they attack, attack, attack," he says, Rentokil's increased offer has disappointed the institutions, he claims, and given BET a chance. However he is facing an

uphill task. The betting is that, as in Granada-Forte, the City claims for Rentokil. "Clark has institutions will back the group with the more impres-

David Buchan on France's tricky balancing act with China

ment will breathe a deep sigh of relief when Mr Li Peng, prime minister of China, rounds off his visit to France with a trip to Toulouse to see the Airbus aircraft that China has agreed to buy, and then takes off this afternoon to return to the Middle Kingdom.

no longer seem as inspired

as they once did. Credit Suisse

was forced to restructure First

Boston and pump more capital

in last year, but the US invest-

ment bank still ranks well

behind its main US rivals in

He is unusual among Swiss bankers in that his views on

banking were formed in the

innovative atmosphere of New

York, where, during a four-

year stint at Lazard Frères in the 1960s, he became con-

vinced that commercial and

investment bankers should be

After joining Credit Suisse

in 1971, he was able to impose that view in the Swiss bank,

ing joint venture, initially with White Weld, later First

Boston, that would be kept at

arm's length from the bank. CSFB soon became London's

top Eurobond house, and has

remained a leading force in

The same view informed the

this market ever since.

kept apart.

For it has been a testing five days trying to combine conscience with contracts, although both sides have tried to put Mr Li's visit back on a more even keel after a diplo matic row on Wednesday night nearly capsized it.

Regardless of the continued presence of a few human rights protestors outside the Chinese embassy, Mr Li's delegation yesterday signed another FFribn worth of contracts with Franch companies. Mr Li yesterday told the Paris chamber of commerce and industry that France and China should resolve their differences to reach a "stable long-term relationship", while the Elysee said Jacques Chirac, French president, had accepted in principle Mr Li's invitation to visit China

The Li Peng visit to France has, once again, shown how difficult it is to strike the right balance between a firm defence of western beliefs on human rights and the desire to profit from what is potentially the world's biggest market. Mr Yves Galland, the foreign

trade minister, jubilantly claimed that the Chinese premier's visit was "a complete success on the economic level" and argued that China's "economic development will help settle the human rights problem". But, inevitably, the French government has come in for a steady stream of criticism - mainly from the socialist opposition and from trade unions - for its quasi-royal treatment of the man considered responsible for the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. Mr Bernard Kouchner, a left-

wing politician, complained that Mr Chirac should not be behaving solely as France's "premier tradesman". The criticism was a bit unfair as Mr Chirac's discussions with Mr Li were largely political and covered human rights as well as strategic issues such as nuclear proliferation. But the breadth of French political constrated this week by more than 200 deputies and senators urging China to "decolonise"

Sweet and sour banquet in Paris

munist leadership is particularly difficult for France for two reasons. One is France's conviction that its 1789 revolution makes it the guardian of the rights of man; it was in this tradition that it gave a temporary home to Mr Deng Xizoping, now communist China's elder statesman, when he was a young man. But, as the leftwing Liberation newspaper commented this week: "It is dangerous to want to be the country of the rights of man. One risks being taking seri-

The other factor is more recent - France's 1992 sale of Mirage jets and missiles to closed down the French consulate in Guangzhou and froze French companies out of the Chinese market. In 1994, Mr Edouard Balladur, then France's prime minister. started fence-mending. This began well with a French declaration that it would no longer supply any offensive weapons to Taiwan.

However, when he visited China two years ago, Mr Balladur ran into trouble. He tried to handle the human rights issue as discreetly as possible. but the Chinese authorities made this virtually impossible

by rounding up - in advance of Mr Balladur's arrival in various Chinese cities - all the local dissidents they could lay their hands on. As a result, Mr Balladur found himself constantly pestered by accompanying French journalists about dissidents, and made the mistake of showing himself just as peeved with the French press as with Beiling.

This week, President Chirac and Mr Alain Juppe, the prime minister, resolved to be a bit more forthright, but nearly found themselves in the same sort of mess. For Wednesday's official banquet, linked to the signing of the all-important Juppé had prepared a toast. The speech, on the advice of Mr Francois Plaisant, the aptly named French ambassador in Peking, contained an anodyne reference to France seeking "dialogue, but not confrontation" with China on human rights. The reference, however, was enough to anger Mr Li. His subsequent 90-minute delay in turning up for the contract signing and dinner sent French officials into a cold sweat.

In the event, Mr Li finally agreed to Mr Juppé's suggestheir toasis. Contracts were



toast to the press, and the Chinese side pretended their pre-mier's delay had been purely technical. In this ambiguous way, honour was satisfied on the accompanying issue of "the list". Mr Hervé de Charette, the French foreign minister. said he handed over to his Chinese opposite number a list of 20 Chinese political prisoners. requesting their release. The Chinese denied any list had been delivered, then suggested the names on it were incorrect and even that Mr de Charette's

piece of paper was blank.

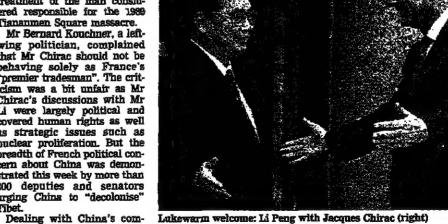
signed, dinner was eaten, Mr Juppe leaked the text of his

Tet the following day Mr Li made no fuss when it was reported that he and Mr Chirac had agreed on the need for a constructive human rights dialogue. Why did the Chinese premier temporarily lose his cool? Explanations vary from the trivial - Mr Li's pique at being greated by too junior a tive possibility that the Chinese leadership is now ready to talk to the west about human rights, but only in private.

France has, in fact, been instrumental in getting the European Union to open, as with Iran, a "critical dialogue" with Beijing - a dialogue, in other words, that is courteous but allows differences to be freely aired. Mr Chirac agreed this with Mr Li at the EU-Asian summit in Bangkok earlier this spring. At two subsequent meetings between EU and Chinese diplomats. China has said it will reform its penal code, accept United Nations-sponsored delegations on human rights, and sign UN protocols on political and economic rights.

Though cautiously welcoming these promises, the EU is seeking further pledges from China and has joined the US in tabling a resolution on China to be put before the UN human rights commission in Geneva. French diplomats say it is too early to judge what "critical dialogue" with China will produce. But they point to the merit of now having a joint EU position on the issue, after some initial reservations among Nordic members of the wanted stronger language of "condemnation" in the Geneva resolution. "At least we are now all walking the same tightrope in dealing with Bei-

jing," said one French official.



Personal View · Clare Short

A better way to run the railway

The Labour party's strategy would take more account of the public interest



Capital asset: London's

The UK's Conservative government hopes to launch next hopes to launch next
week a further stage
of its rail privatisation programme
with the publication of the path finder prospectus for the flotation of Railtrack, the company that owns the track, signalling equipment and

The proposed sell-off falls short of a considered and mature national rail transport strategy. Selling valuable national assets for a fraction of their real worth is irresponsible. To privatise the company in a single share sale, it has been endowed with contracts that require the train operating companies to pay generous access charges to use the network. If there is no change of government, the taxpayer will pay the price for years to come in the subsidies the operators will need to be profitable.

Next week, the opposition Labour party will initiate a parliamentary debate to balt the sale of Railtrack. a dehate Labour could win given the size of the government's majority. However, if the sale proceeds, prospective investors will want to

know Labour's position on the more effective. For example, the company's future. A Labour government would aim to create a cohesive and responsible public railway service. This will involve three instruments of control - regulation, subsldy and a gradual increase in public ownership.

The most immediate area of influ-

ence over Railtrack will be through purposes. regulation, using the considerable powers given to the rail regulator in the Railways Act 1993. These are greater than any the secretary of state ever had over the governing board of the state-owned railway. Before privatisation, the transport

secretary's greatest weapon lay in the right to dismiss the board - a sanction so powerful that it could never be used. The regulator needs no such weapon since his existing powers are more focused and thus

regulator can set Railtrack's access charges, which comprise at least 80 per cent of its revenue. He can determine what Railtrack does with its valuable property portfolio, and. in this way, ensure that both the land and the proceeds from development and sales are used for railway

He can also compel the company to grant access to new train operators, and change the charges and conditions imposed on them. And he can make changes to Railtrack's network licence to strengthen existing controls and introduce new ones, subject to the approval of the Monopolies and vergers Commission.

The regulator is independent of the secretary of state, and operates under a set of statutory duties with

relatively few limits on his powers. The duties are generally drawn, and require him, for example, to protect the interests of users, promote efficiency and economy, and enhance the use of the network. But a simple amendment to the Railways Act 1993 is all that would be needed for a Labour government to enhance his accountability to the transport sec-

Labour is not interested in becoming involved in the day-to-day business of regulating the railways. However, an elected government should be concerned about the long-term future of the rail net-work. The relationship between the secretary of state and the regulator

will be adjusted to reflect this. A Labour government would expect the regulator to make greater use of his powers to promote

the public interest. Most people who value and respect the railways know that Railtrack has been left with far too much scope for making profits at the expense of its customers, the travelling public and the railfreight

That has to change substantially. Railtrack has to be far more responsive to the needs of its customers and the regulator must use his pow-

ers to ensure this is the case. Labour also wants to reorganise the subsidy paid to the rail system, which at present amounts to £2bn a year. This is now paid to the train operators which use it to pay access charges for the Railtrack network. Without the subsidies, the train operators would be lossmaking.

In the Netherlands and Sweden. government subsidies are put directly into the rail network which party's shadow transport secretary

allows the train operating compa-nies to be profitable without subsidy. This approach means that rail transport is financed in the same way as roads - the public finance goes to the infrastructure.

Labour will seek to pay the subsidy direct to Ralltrack and reach agreements on the best use of taxpayers' money. My favoured way of acquiring ownership would be to take equity in the company in return for part of the annual sub-sidy. It would clearly be wrong to give £2bn a year to a company that might be sold for as little as £1.5bn without a proper return on public investment.

If Railtrack is privatised, its shareholders should not expect a Labour government to allow its transport policy objectives to be frustrated simply because the rail network is no longer in the public sector. Railtrack should be regarded as the trustee of assets, which must be protected, enhanced and operated in the public interest. That is a role unlike that of any ordinary commercial undertaking.

The author is the opposition Labour

MARKETS REPORT **Dollar steady**

with the break above DM1.50

still firmly intact. Currency markets took comfort from the solid performance of the US bond market, despite continued signs of strength in the economy. The dollar fin-ished in London at DM1.5037. from DM1.5013, and at

Y108.675, from Y108.49. In Europe currencies were fairly steady following the recent losses of the D-Mark. It finished at FFr3.394 against the French franc, from FFr3.399.

The Portuguese escudo finished at Es102.7, from Es102.8. against the D-Mark after the Bank of Portgual cut its repo rate by 20 basis points, to 7.6 per cent.

pr de La mo

Sterling was unmoved by the government's most recent by-election defeat, which saw its majority shrink to one. It

1.2153

(MS) 3,64241 (MS) 3,653 (Pec) 38,5734 (SR) 5,6660 (SS) 2,1325 (SS) 2,1325 (Won) 1162,97 (T3) 41,0635 (Bt) 38,2383

CROSS RATES AND DERIVATIVES

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8.771 7.714 4.281 3.765 5.805 5.105 5.342 4.698 7.219 6.348

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-0.0017 -0.0003 -0.0001

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2.273 0.969 1.109 0.473 1.504 0.641 1.384 0.590 1.871 0.798

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TO TO-MARKE PUTURES (IMM) DM 125,000 per DM

UK SITEREST RATES

LONDON MONEY RATES

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and at \$1.5113, from \$1.5137.

The dollar yesterday performed steadily, finishing the week the US bond market increased the US bond market increased optimism that the circumstances might be falling into place for the long awaited, presumably dollar positive, outflow of Japanese portfolio capi-

> Mr Neil MacKinnon, chief economist at Citibank in London, said the market's dollar optimism appeared to be based

customer flows.

he did not share.

28 27 1.7 0.7 1.8 2.7

192.302

2.0372

15.8688 46.3389 6.7344 7.0979 7.6789 2.2573

2400.68 48.3386 2.5204 9.7841 234.849 190.647 10.1482 1.8284

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0.4

sive pessimism about the state

of the German economy which

-- Prev. close -1,5120 1.5125 1.5119 1,5102 1.5055

on the hope of a cut in German interest rates when the Bundesbank council meets on Thursday. He was cautious about the quality of the dollar's rally, saying it had been driven largely by interbank traders and US hedge funds, rather than reflecting large

15.9985 15.8479 48.7360 48.5370 8.7837 8.7521 7.1240 7.0850 7.7322 7.8679 2.2786 2.2672

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51,8270 51,4496

4,7686 4,7578

164.530 163.730 3.8102 3.7968 2.2382 2.2255

39.6714 39.4850 5.6801 5.6606 2.1363 2.1261 6.3122 6.2061 1185.48 1180.83

-0.256 702 - 824 386.673 386.260 - 0.0014 883 - 699 0.9703 0.9658 0.967 43.26 629 884 2376.74 2366.08 2382.37 4.0002 373 - 388 2.5431 2.5338 2.5328 -0.0118 045 199 9.8399 9.7725 9.815 -0.015 434 - 603 233.834 230.278 233.93 -0.0068 373 - 535 10.1624 10.1024 10.1533 +0.0051 473 - 488 1.8523 1.8405 1.857

15.951 46.5684 8.7603 7.1002 7.7088 2.2673

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Est voi Open int.

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6-9 months

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2.538 9.812 1.239 4.789 1.880 6.494 1.546 5.976 2.089 8.076

500.5 268.2 302.7 102.7 241.0 9.623 92.00 238.0 100. 123.0 230.0 126.4

233.5 189.8 114.0 82.63 154.5 125.6 142.2 115.8 192.2 156.2

406.9 216.4 246.0 83.50 195.9 7.985 74.78 193.4 81.28 100. 187.0 102.7

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IF JAPANESE YER PUTTIRES (IMM) You 12.5 per Yen 100

Latest 0,9292 0,9410 0,9533

2.961 2.107 2.968 0.513 1.907 0.078 0.728 1.863 0.791 0.974 1.821

1.948 0.902 1.223 1.125 1.521

Change -0.0012 -0.0008

IN THEMES MONTH STREELING PUTURES (LIFFE) \$500,000 points of 100%

Aun 92.93 93.95 +0.92 93.96 93.93
Sep 93.72 93.77 +0.05 93.78 93.72
Dec 93.35 93.40 +0.05 93.42 93.94
May 92.87 92.96 +0.05 92.93 92.96
Jun 92.48 92.51 +0.04 92.52 92.48
Also tracks on APT. As Open Interest ligs, any for previous day.

In SHORT STERRLING OPTIONS (LIFPE) \$500,000 points of 100% 93.95 93.77 93.40 92.92 92.51

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0.488 0.662 0.609 0.523

High 0.9307

High

4,392 2,336 2,656 0,901 2,115 0,086 0,807 2,066 0,876 1,080 2,019 1,109

2.049 1 1.356 1.248 1.686

Low 0.9259 0.9410

1.511 0.757 1 0.920

+0.0003 744 - 882 -0.0195 144 - 933 -0.0011 868 - 748 +0.0058 044 - 163 -0.0073 106 - 182 -0.256 732 - 824

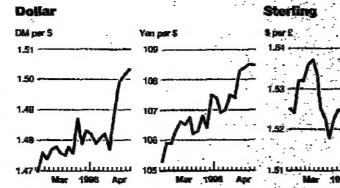
-0.0024 090 - 104 -0.005 958 - 968 -0.0032 488 - 503 -0.0185 204 - 340 -0.0024 110 - 116

-0.0062 576 - 659 +0.02 1770 - 311 +0.0006 027 - 056 -0.0039 316 - 341 -0.0705 666 - 683 +0.0016 313 - 336 -0.0213 518 - 654 -0.0213 518 - 654 -0.0213 518 - 654 -0.023 478 - 782

-0.0062 666 +0.0016 313 -0.0213 518 -0.97 266 -0.0653 478 -

-0.1576

- 900 - 723



that the rally in some European currencies against the D-Mark could be nearing a The dollar's rise has taken place against the background of low volumes. Fund managclose. "A lot of these curreners are already long dollars, cies are now running into terriand unwilling to add to their He said the dollar's rally was very dependent on the Bund-esbank delivering the goods in

tory where they have little interest rate protection." French ten year bonds, for example, are only yielding 11 basis points more than German terms of lower interest rates." He said, though, that this seemed to be based on excesbunds. Mr MacKinnon said it had been against a similar backdrop that the 1998 ERM turbulence had taken place. Mr Brian Marber, an independent technical analyst, offers a more optimistic view.

DOLLAR SPOT FORWAR

10.5748 30.8700 5.9036 4.7048 5.1045 1.5037 242.290 1.579.63 30.8700 1.8787 6.4826 154.515 1.25.615 8.7130 1.2436

0.9990 0.9901 1.3562 7.4950

1.2652 7.7330

34.1500 3.1509 108.675 2.5172 1.4773 26.1850 3.7504 1.4110 4.1425

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Apr 12

105.5 107.7 106.3 82.6 109.4 66.9 97.8 107.7 107.9 96.5 82.0 83.6

65.0

108.6

He believes the dollar is "days away from a very big move". which chart the relationship between the current spot price and the price some fixed period previously (eg three months ago). On this basis, the dollar this week broke decisively in against the D-Mark and Swi

Apr

DM per 2

CURRENCIES AND MONEY

Mr Marber reminds that on a closing basts, the dollar's low point was DML8533 almost a ago - on April 19. Given the dollar's average

10.5870 10.5470 30.9110 30.9070 5,6154 5,7866 4,7119 4,8903 5,1162 5,0810 1,5070 1,4957

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1,2825 7,7324 34,0490

3.1530 3.1487 106,980 108,310 2,5180 2,5132 1,4784 1,4748

25.2400 25.1300 3.7505 3.7502 1.4115 1.4085 4.1725 4.1100

783.100 781.800

162,483 2,15214 39,3960 13,4383 1,91007 195,792 7,28580 6,40608

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30.817 5.7986 4.8983 5.0984 1.501

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EMS EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

159,019 2,12502 39,0456 13,3695 1,90116 195,472 7,33974 6,45748

CALLS May 2.23 1.53 0.97 0.57 0.29

+0.0112 018 - +0.0038 000 - +0.0038 004 - +0.215 040 - -0.0048 585 - +0.0038 500 - +0.0039 752 - +0.0025 586 - +0.025 480 - -0.075 570 - +0.0025 328 - -0.0033 228 - -0.0034 410 - -0.0034 410 - -0.0034 411 - -

- 987 - 882 -0.0018 900 - 902 - 559 - 564 -0.0005 920 - 960

-0.0017 649 - 857 +0.0003 325 - 335 -0.05 500 - 500 +0.0009 488 - 529 +0.165 560 - 707 -0.002 789 - 780 -0.007 502 - 605 +0.0032 105 - 115 -0.0075 375 - 475 +0.6 700 - 800 - 603 - 760 -0.0145 130 - 180 -0.0145 130 - 180 -0.0145 130 - 180

2,606 1,365 1,575 0,585 1,254 0,051 0,479 1,236 0,520 0,640 1,197 0,657

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352.0 157.2 212.9 72.24 169.5 6.908 64.70 167.3 70.32 86.51 161.8 88.85

164.2 80.14 108.7 100.

Est. vol. Open int.

Est. vol Open int.

Dec 0.57 0.74 0.93

Sep 0.21 0.34 0.53

80,017 2,129 1,069

Strike Price 1.490 1.500 1.510 1.520 1.530 Previou

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to 1988 has been 27 per cent. with the current advance only just over 10 per cent, it should have some way to go yet. When the move comes, though it could be fast. No rally since 1988 has lasted more than 17% months, suggesting that fire-

next five months.

Mr Marber is forecasting
DML60 by the end of May, and doesn't think the rally will finish before DML70 is reached. In the process, he sees sterling reaching DM246 and \$1.4750.

30.23 5.811 4.8408 5.0485 1.472

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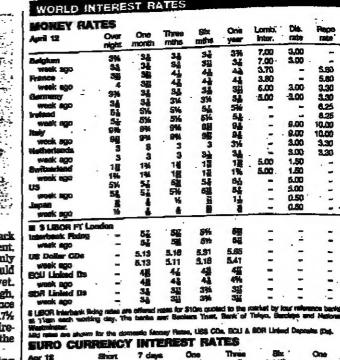
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WORLD CURRENCIES The FT Guide to World Currencies table can be found on the Meriteix page in Monday's edition.

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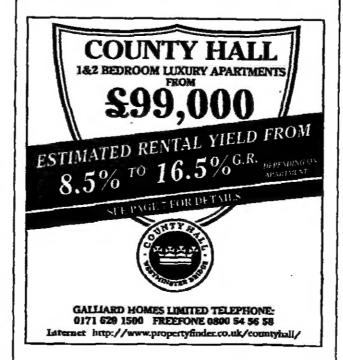
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FINANCIAL TIMES

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Living with the nuclear mess

What can be done about Sellafield? David Lascelles reports on an insider's view of the plant's potential disasters

concrete walls containsolution for treating plutonium nitrate, a deadly by-product of nuclear power plants.

This is not just a poison in the ordinary sense, for it contains enough radioactive material to create a nuclear explosion, should it become too

This nearly happened in September 1992. A welded joint inside the chamber failed, and 30 litres of the stuff was sprayed around the floor and walls. It collected in mounds, dangerously close to the size which would result in a nuclear chain reaction, similar to that which occurs when two lumps of plutonium are brought together in a nuclear

The material had to be cleaned up with extreme urgency (before it could collect

workers removed the mounds in a carefully worked out sequence to avoid creating a pattern which could set them off. Had the plant been treating military grade plutonium, rather than the less concentrated type used for nuclear explosion would almost cer-

tainly have resulted. This horrific incident - let alone all the others which have made Sellaffeld notorious seems quite enough to justify its title as Britain's most feared, and hated, industrial site. The details have been made public in a remarkable new book* about the plant, written by a former director of British Nuclear Fuels, the plant's owner. He is Harold Bolter, once the industrial editor of the Pinancial Times, who

in larger mounds. But it was so highly radioactive that, even in protective suits, workers could bility for, among other things,

in the public domain, his account is the first insider's view of the deeply secretive world of nuclear reprocessing. This shines a grimly fascina ing light on the forthcoming privatisation of Britain's nuclear energy industry.

This month's tenth anniver-

sary of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl in the Ukraine will focus the world's attention once again on the safety of nuclear plants. But a far greater problem for the nuclear industry is the "back end": the spent fuel, the radioactive waste, the decommissioning, all of which are Sellafield's business. These remain huge problems for every country's nuclear industry, even the saf-est. They cannot be shrugged off, as Chernobyl was, with "it couldn't happen here".

the cost of each plant is measured in billions and uncertainties about safety can double

the price? Bolter is one of those who thinks we do need nuclear power because severything else will eventually run out. He also believes that Sellafield and BNFL have impressive technical achievements to their name, and deserve to suc-

So it is especially worrying to find that he has grave doubts about key aspects of British nuclear policy: the economic viability of reprocessing spent nuclear fuel, the decision to privatise, and the unanswered questions about the final disposal of nuclear waste. Recause of his experience. Bolter must be taken seriously even though he was forced to

Nuclear power has such a bad name today that it is hard to recall the grand confidence almost 40 years ago, when the young Queen Elizabeth went to Sellafield to inaugurate Calder Hall, the world's first commercial nuclear power station. The that Britain was still at the forefront of world technology. Nuclear power would provide boundless cheap energy - and throw off a useful by-product in the form of plutonium for Britain's H-bomb to secure its seat at the world's top table.

In those inspirational times, the problem of dealing with nuclear waste seemed distant and small. Sellafield's early function was to manufactur nuclear fuel and recover the plutonium afterwards, rather than deal with the resulting early managers with their puts it, sowed the seeds for the ith anotheier pildur suilleurs. culties which have dogged Sel-

lafield ever since.

Shortly after the plant opened, in 1957, one of the two nuclear piles there was destroyed by fire. This was Europe's worst nuclear accident until Chernobyl. So illequipped was the plant to deal with the disaster that volunteers without protective clothing had to handle smouldering and highly radioactive reactor parts with scaffolding poles. No one thought to alert the

local population, and children played happily out of doors while radioactive contamina-

Sellafield's civil service bosses thought it was "a little local difficulty" with no wider consequences. They little understood the huge public fears which nuclear accidents

would later inspire. Although

nobody was killed directly, it

was later thought that the acci-

dent caused an additional 100 cancer cases in the UK. As time went by, BNFL became, if anything, even more isolated from the British public. When, in the 1970s, it exploited its skills to take in spent fuel from overseas customers, it was branded by the

Continued on Page II



challenge

Travel: Zanzibar: Venice without the

Food and Origin Britist brunches from Asian breakfasts

Booker Life online in the age of the

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE



Property: Home prices and the hot schools

Fashion: New York's

Next week ~ ROYALTY The start of a six-week examination of Europe's royal families



Joe Rogaly

Tale of two EU cities

To build New London Tony Blair's New Labour needs new money

Tory, let it pass as the same old story, but we must inquire, ever so politely - bow much? That is the big one, the killerdiller, the question to be put to any politician. This week it is asked of Tony Blair, putative saviour of London.

Alas, it remains unanswered, especially when it specifies the financing of the Labour leader's proposed new Greater London Authority. Cities are expensive toys, as they can tell you in New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Tokyo and Berlin - to name some of the most highly priced. New Labour cannot create New London for free.

Doubtless Mr Blair knows as much. He is, however, busy. His eyes are set firmly on turning everyone, of whatever shade of political opinion, into an admirer. I sometimes fancy his real long-term plan is to become chancellor of a future Friedrich Hayek/Adam Smith foundation, funded by George Sores. Such is the foolery that

sprouts in the spring. Yet there is a fine line between wooing one's natural opponents and embracing them with shameless abandon. You may think Mr Blair crossed it during his visit to the US this week. He could reply, with asperity, that he has his opinion poll leads to count, and the votes cast for

Labour in Thursday's by-elec-tion to re-enter into the great Sure he has. Great, Tony. Well done. So how much? On Wednesday his Labour party put forward proposals for a new, elected, strategic anthority for Britain's capital city.

Mr Blair has said be would

like it to be run by a directly elected mayor. This sounds sensible, as any reader of None, now in paperback, might agree. London is at present managed by 32 elected borough councils, plus an array of quangos, puppet organisations whose strings lead back to the cahinet and the Treesury.

Since it is large enough to be a city-state the conurbation on the Thames needs a proper government. Some body, possessed of real authority, should be engaged, full-time, in promoting its interests, keeping it ahead in the world marketplace for tourism, or financial services. Transport, land-use planning, infrastructure, have to be administered. Central government, and Brussels, have to be pestered for funds. The executive doing all that should not be frag-

proposal. The idea is a runner. It needs work, as we shall see, but it is a start. Now step back

where it has to get to. You can do this by looking at Berlin, which marks the other, eastern, end of the constellation of cities that stretches across the northern half of the European Union. Its story is instructive. Berlin is a true city-state, a and within the German federation. Its constitution, its forms of governance, are a eauty to behold. On May 5 its

for a moment and consider

To me, New Berlin sounds intriguing, but a city has to pay its debts

citizens will vote in a referendum on whether to merge with surrounding Brandenburg, a rural band that has been invaded by Berliners seeking the suburban life. The arguments will doubtless cover such lofty matters as the need for an integrated transport strategy, but in reality, I suspect, the question will "how much?"

For Brandenburg is poor and Berlin is broke. Brandenburgers may be less than anxious to assume Berlin's debts: the sophisticates of the city

about the backwardness of the surrounding state. Pederal subsidies to the former West Berlin have been reduced or nerships there. Add savings on administrawithdrawn since the wall fell and the city was reunified. About 24,000 public jobs are to be cut. Federal civil servants

are clinging to their offices in Bonn, resisting the celebrated plan to move to what some see Germany's, others as Europe's, future canital. On Monday the Anglo-German Foundation* pub-West Berlin was on a federal lishes a report comparing the es of London and Berlin. Its lead professor is Sam Aaronovitch, director of the local economic policy unit at London's South Bank univer-

gainst London, Tokyo or New To me, New Berlin sounds intriguing, but a city has to pay its debts. When I visited its separated halves before 1989 each was a matter of wonder, each for a different reason. Now insolvency overshad-

sity. He says Berlin sees itself

as a regional capital within

central and eastern Europe. In

no sense will it compete

We do not know whether London is solvent; no citywide budget exists. Labour's paper on an elected authority for the city has clearly been drafted by masters of wishful thinking. Present services, it says, are financed by council

There will be a bit of borrowing here, public/private part-

tion, produced by the slimness of the new entity. Uncon-vinced? Here is the cosp de Authority will be much more effective ... at raising funds from the European Union". See how desperate they are to avoid the truth, that services

drip-feed, which is why its bureaucracy became so large, its government machine so overstaffed. For most of the years since 1979 London's boronehs, inefficient as many of them are, have been working to ever-tighter centrally controlled budgets. There may be some savings on sackings and unnecessary service cuts in the 32 boroughs, but they are unquantifiable.

If New Labour is to improve democracy, or infrastructure, or services in the capital city it will have to find additional revenue. This would best be extracted from the inhabitants of the city and its businesses. It is no good electing an authority and asking it to depend on Treasury handouts, or lottery windfalls; the election would be a waste of time. So - how much?

T mg menti sang at this - to the magic, evocations of section rather than the transfer case its the humber - when compared to one of the as its more than than an i



verybody knows that dia monds are dazzling to look at and harder than any other mineral. But a diamond's crystalline structure endows it with other extreme physical properties. It is one of the best conductors of heat and one of the best electrical insulators. This unique combination makes dismond an ideal material for a range

of uses from cooling supercomputers to detecting ultraviolet. Chemically, diamond is far from exotic. It is nothing more than crystals of carbon, itself the main constituent of soot. Natural diamonds, formed under extremes of temperature and pressure, are found in deposits of kimberlite, a rare volcanic rock. Synthetic diamond can be produced at low pressures by a process called chemical

vapour decomposition. Varying the conditions of the CVD process changes the rate of growth and the quality of the diamond. James Adair and Rajiv Gainesville, recently developed a another four, so diamond crystals The Nature of Things

How to grow a diamond

Its special properties make this mineral ideal for electronic uses, writes Andrew Derrington

new process to cover the substrate have a repeating tetrahedral struction diamond is put to use in the electronic diamond diam grew the largest ever synthetic diamond - 30cm in diameter and 1.5mm thick.

Diamond owes its special properties to its crystalline structure. The atoms in a crystal are bound together by sharing electrons with each other in a sort of atomic handshake. Each atom becomes stable when it shares enough extra electrons to fill its outermost shell - all its chemically reactive hands are now full and are no longer available to form new chemical links. Carbon has four electrons in

hands with four neighbours. Curbon is the smallest atom with a four-electron outer shell. So its "arms" are very short, very strong and vibrate at very high frequencies. This is what makes diamond so tough, and such a good conductor of heat - about five times bet-

Its high electrical resistance comes about because the electrous are held so tightly in "handshakes" that it requires a great deal of energy to liberate one to make it carry electric current.

produce large amounts of heat, such as Gunn diodes used to generate microwaves, are bonded to a heat spreader made from a tiny diamond wafer. The spreader conducts the heat away to a more mas-sive "heat sink", which may itself

Miniaturisation, which brings the increases in speed and power demanded by the supercomputer industry, aggravates the heat dissipation problem. Speculative designs for future supercomputers contain cubic stacks of chips on diamond heat spread-The high thermal conductivity of ers and surrounded by water-

cooled heat sinks. Diamond is not yet cheap enough for use on this

The stability of electrons also diamond. Light is absorbed by exciting electrons so that they jump from one state into another. Visible and infra-red light do not contain enough energy to move an electron out of a bond, so diamond does not absorb these wavelengths.

The much higher energy photons of ultraviolet light are absorbed, making diamond an excellent material for building detectors of these wavelengths. One potential application for diamond UV-detectors, blind as they are to visible machines for automatically read-

The ultimate use of synthetic diamond, according to Trevor Evans of Reading University, would be as a substitute for silicon to make semiconductors that would work in extreme conditions of temperature and radiation.

Silicon, like carbon, has four electrons in its onter shell. The essential materials for making semiconductor devices are "n-type" slitcon, where some of the silicon atoms are replaced by a group 5 atom such as phosphorus with an extra electron in its outer shell, and "p-type" silicon, where the replacement is a group 3 atom,

with one electron less. Unfortunately, diamond is much less receptive than silicon to such substitutions. Boron fits into the carbon lattice to make p-type semiconducting diamond, but the only group 5 element that fits in is nitrogen, which does not produce the expected semiconducting behaviour. "Sometimes elementary semiconductor physics is not adequate to account for the properties of impurity atoms," says Alan Col-lins, a physicist from King's Col-lege London.

Although diamond transistors have been produced by Kobe Steel in the US and by Daimler Benz in Germany, they do not work very well. "The fact that you can only get p-type diamond is very limiting," says Collins. So it looks as if it will be some time before the ultimate fashion acces mond transistor radio, bits the

■ The author is professor of psychology at the University of Nottingham,

Minding Your Own Business Change of career produces a silver lining

David Spark meets a businessman who spent nine years teaching

regards himself as today's world of offthe shelf shopping, he makes the gifts and memerices that you cannot buy in the shops when you are looking for something special for a particular

"I take all the requirements and put together a design and a product to suit the customer," he says. "It has to be a able to live with it going out of the door into someone else's

"I make only one of anything. And I insist on the client being involved in the design

One of his most striking works is a memorial to a saxophone player, whose saxo-phone is held by two silver

Kelly has made large pieces for the military, particularly the gunners, but now commisrings and jewellery. He is also well known around Kendal, in set himself - to make a silver chess set, one piece a year. He ding, fantasy figures so far, and is working on two more. "I have only 26 to go, which means I'm going to be a very old man when I finish," he

Born in Kendal, Kelly was brought up on the outskirts of Liverpool and went to Hop-wood Hall, near Manchester, to study furniture design. His tutor was the silversmithing lecturer, Ron Denny, "Denny demonstrated you could get hold of a bit of metal, heat it up, put it in acid and hash it, and produce something really beautiful. The scales fell from my eyes: it was a damascene conversion. When you're at school you don't get the ce to do things like that." After Hopwood Hall, Kelly got the chance to offer the same experience to pupils at

ony Kelly is a sil-versmith and he De la Salle College, Salford. The principal, Brother Claude, wanted to add design to his arts-and-science curriculum He appointed a brilliant graphic designer, Colin Gray, as head of department. Kelly and a furniture experi, Tony Livesey, joined him.
"I didn't even have a work-

shop when I started," he says. "I had a courtyard that was going to be built into a work-shop. I made all the major purchases and spent nine years sending pupils to Middlesex College of Art, or Newcastle, Birmingham, Sheffield."

Then, in the late 1970s, the government ended the direct grant. Schools had either to go independent or come under the local authority. Salford took over De la Salle and made it a sixth-form college. Kelly had to reapply for his own job.

He sympathised with the council's aspirations for com-

prehensive education but resented the way it did things. Instead, he decided to set up on his own. "I'd spotted a little niche in the arts and crafts market in Kendal. I spent many summers as a child here with a favourite aunt and uncle. And I'm still here, not making a fortune but making a living," he says.

"During the summer of 1977 I spent a lot of time just going round the area to assess what I could see as a market. I made a few pieces which I sold to shops. Then I had a conversation with someone who was working at my aunt's house. He had workshop space." Kelly joined a sort of craft centre, which featured an antiques restorer, a cabinetmaker, an upholsterer and a silkscreen printer. "When I look back, it's naively bizarre. I knew nothing about running a business. I didn't have a job; I

teacher and she didn't have a

job. We had a three-year-old

daughter. But I had a bank

manager in Manchester who

believed me and let me have



"I still need a working over-draft. I work like hell to reduce

"Within three months, I started making things and people just started appearing. They either wanted to buy what I'd already made or they were interested in having me

make something special for them." Gradually, a network "There was interest from the antiques trade, whether I'd do refurbishment and restoration work, which I did. I would rather make new but, because it brings people in. I'm happy

to have some repair work."

Kelly leases his shop and

lives in the flat above. He sells

essential "window for people to see things and to see me working. My counter sales are small, I don't make widgets, I try things out. People get interested and come in and see the possibilities."

He never advertises but gets publicity in the local papers if he does something special or unusual. For the city of Ripon, for example, he handled the silverwork on a Wakeman's horn presented Maundy money in

In 1980 he was nearly put out of business when Bunker Hunt tried to corner the silver market. "Things you had quoted for were escalating in price by a factor of 10," he says.

ver he made, he says, came about when an accountant from Newcastle visited Kendal. He was a major in the Territorial Army and wanted a piece to present to a colleague who was leaving: it was a Royal Artillery badge. This was his entrée to the military network. Kelly made a model of a 105mm gun to be presented to the city of Newcastle. "Another time, I got a phone call and there was this Australian voice. It was a major from the Royal Australian Artillery wanted a model of one of the

guns they were just receiving from the UK, and he'd seen an

Then there were table cen-

trepieces. "I did an interpreta-

article in The Gunner."

tion of the Gilbraitar Battery's insignia in three dimensions. That cost the battery £4,500." The biggest centreplece on which he worked, with other craftsmen, was for the Royal Engineers. Crowned with a theodolite, it presents the his-tory of the Ordnance Survey and contains like of silver. Now, the military is buying less, and commercial companies do not want to be seen to

be splashing out. Kelly puts his annual turnover in the tens of thousands, much of it from

"I get a lot of work from away from here. My furthest customer is in New Zealand." A.F. Kelly, 11 Lowther Street, Kendal LA9 4DH. (Tel: Letter from Nairobi

Was I about to be mugged?

Michela Wrong is left confused by a worrying incident in Kenya

just after I had moved to Nairobi to start my job as Africa correspondent for the

Fresh from anarchic Zaire, where most of society's rules appear to have been turned upside down, Kenya, with its British-style road signs and neat housing estates, seemed the epitome of civilisation. My defences down, I was easy and credulous prey for the growing ranks of con man operating in this fast-expanding capital.

I had been invited to a friend's house and was trying to map-read while driving, always a stressful experience. Coming around a corner I rolled down the window to ask a middle-aged Kenyan on the verge for directions.

He was holding an empty plastic container, which he brandished in my face, saying be had run out of fuel. Could I take him to the nearest petrol station? His hend was already on the door handle; he seemed certain I could not refuse. Confused and distracted, I let him in. My brain immediately started sending out hysterical

alarm sienals. Memories of endless dinner party horror stories about Kenya's spiralling crime rate; tales of car-jackings and rape; visions of Julie Ward, blood-stained bodies, sexual atrocities. "She gave a complete stranger a lift – what did she expect?" I could imagine friends saying as they read the garish headlines.

Meanwhile my passenger was chatting away. He claimed to be a policeman, a statement he clearly assumed would reassure me. In Zaire, most crimes are committed by men in uniform. Was Kenya going to be any different, I wondere My heart pounding, I hit the main road and immediately spotted an Agip petrol station 100 metres away. Thank good-ness, the ordeal was going to

be a short one. But as soon as we pulled in he was asking me for money to buy petrol. I handed over a small amount reflecting that this was the price for my stupidity. But my passenger, who, I now noticed, had alcohol on his breath, had spotted the larger notes in my wallet. His car, he said, was a four-wheel drive and would

need a lot more than this mea-

gre contribution to get going. And how about driving him to

am still trying to work where it was packed? As we out whether I was mugged bickered, he kept repeating the words: "Don't worry, I have a

This puzzling juxtaposition -surely he meant "Start worrying, I have a gun" or alternatively "Don't worry, I have no gun"? - so confused me I simply chose to ignore it. It was time to get out, I insisted. With petrol attendants and other customers milling around, he rejuctantly complied.

No sooner had he left than I lurched for the doors and locked them, then pulled out of the petrol station. Doused in the sweat of pure relief, I was waiting for a gap in the traffic, engine revving, when there was a light tap on the window.

Cautiously, confident in the knowledge that with my foot on the accelerator and the

Relieved, I waited for a gap in the traffic when there was a tap on the window. He was back.

doors bolted I was no longer assailable, I rolled my window down an inch. "Here, take my visiting card, in case you need a policeman's help in future. Stunned, I smiled politely and waved him away before driving

card. Since that day I have learnt that the empty-petrolcan technique is one of the standard "stings" of Kenya, normally the prelude to a carjacking or spot of extortion. Other favourites are the oilsplashed-on-wheel method, to suggest your car needs an immediate check-up, and the more direct excrement-in-abag approach, perfected by street children who offer, for a small fee, not to burst the contents over a smart suit.

My policeman, if policeman he was, must have been a neo-phyte to stage his attempt so close to a petrol station, not to press his point, and then offer me his identification. How would his card have described him? Part-Time Mugger, per-

Continued from Page I

Daily Mirror as "the world's nuclear dustbin".

which thought it was doing a splendid job, earning valuable foreign exchange. The shock did finally lead to a policy of greater openness, largely at Bolter's instigation, though it is doubtful whether this has done more than hold public hostility in check. His book

shows the reasons. One is that Sellafield has not managed to convince people that it can operate trouble-free. Bolter recounts a shuddering succession of incidents.

Chees No 1122: 1 Kd7/ h690:6 2 KeS stops the plant and wire 2 Ke7 h4 (b8? 3 of wire) 3 Kd5 h3 4 Ka5i and II b6+ 5 lost h2 6 a5 MQ 7 to forces statements. If 4_th2 5 bot h1Q 6 to with 7 s4 and 8 b4

Living with Sellafield's nuclear mess

and waste stores. Once, Bolter and his fellow directors were visiting a pond containing 15 tonnes of nuclear fuel recovered from the 1967 fire when they noticed that one of the retaining walls had an alarming bulge. If the wall collapsed, the contamination could flood much of the site. A reinforcing wall was built, but that pond still exists, and will not be

emptied until at least 2004. On another occasion, a silo was found to have been leaking radioactive water at the rate of 100 gallons a day for nobody knew how long. Soon after, a leak of radioactive acid was discovered in a building which was thought to have been closed 21 years earlier.

waste was allowed to escape through the pipe which carries Sellafield's discharges a mile out into the Irish Sea. That led to the closure of local beaches and a ban on eating local fish. Although everything officially returned to normal six months later, the local tourist industry is still feeling the effects.

And so it goes on. Although Bolter's compression of many incidents spanning 40 years into one book makes Sellafield sound much worse than it is, the number and severity of accidents is probably irrelevant to the public's perception of the place. And public anxiety translates inexorably into higher costs. This is the root of the nuclear industry's difficulties throughout the world, par-

The accusation was a dreadful shock to a management

The sprawling Sellafield site the 1970s. More recently, in ticularly in the US. For no matter ties of it from spent fuel – as line of argument has made littered with old buildings is littered with old buildings is littered with old buildings are well as the plutonium needed the impact on the public. Any tor parts – has nowhere to go. spent after each incident many people remain suspicious. In illustration of this point, Bolter describes how a BNFL advertisement intended to show that radioactive discharges were much reduced

backfired badly: far from taking this as an achievement, the public was angered to learn that Sellafield was still discharging anything at all. Many people remain hostile because they think that much of Sellafield and the huge risks associated with it are unnecessary, particularly the newly opened Thorp plant which reprocesses fuel from later generation reactors. Thorp was

started in 1976 when uranium

was in short supply, and repro-

to sustain the cold war. The potential for foreign contracts was also large.

Today, Thorp is up and running at a cost of £2.9bn. But although Bolter fought a long and hard campaign to get it accepted, he now doubts whether it will ever be a commercial success. Uranium is now plentiful, no one wants the plutonium any more and many of the original clients have backed off.

The potential for foreign earnings has always been cited by BNFL and the government as the clinching argument in favour of Thorn. Even if one believes the profit forecasts and Bolter is doubtful that the contracts on which they are based are all that sound - this spent fuel, unwanted pluto-

financial gains tend to be offset by weightler concerns over the wisdom - moral, security and otherwise - of taking in other people's nuclear waste. As Bolter sees it, Sellafield is

the centrepiece of a "Whitehall farce" covering the whole back end of the nuclear industry. Not only is Britain now committed to an expensive and probably unwanted reprocessing capability, it has also made a shambles of its plans for dis-posing of the resulting radioactive waste. British Energy is being privatised without final repositories for any but the most harmless forms of waste, such as workers' clothing and mildly contaminated components. The really nasty stuff -

This means that Sellafield will, in effect, become the dump for nuclear waste by default.

As for who will pay for the safe disposal of this waste, Bolter describes the arrangements as "an organisational nightmare". Some of it will be billed to British Energy and foreign clients. But most of it will end up in the lap of the UK taxpayer. Because of this, governments will always want to push the day of reckoning further and further into the future - meaning that the waste problem will be spun out far longer than it need be. The present government has already agreed to extend the timetable for decommissioning nuclear power stations from 100 years to 135 years in order

to bring down the cost. It is a disturbing prospect: a hugely expensive plant, part of which could become a white elephant, part a nuclear black

But before rushing to con-

demn Sellafield, it is an inescapable fact that Britain's nuclear waste has to go somewhere, and there may be no better destination for it than Sellafield. The facility has the technology and the skills to deal with some of the most dangerous substances known to man. It lies on top of deep running granite formations out of which caverns could be hewn to house nuclear waste for many millennia - though this is still being investigated. In the long run, Sellafield may have to win grudging acceptance as an unpleasant but necessary service. *Inside Sellafield by Harold Bolter. Quartet Books. 298pp.

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that it was not sporting. Besides

which, the ungainly mask would

get in the way of his relationship

with the environment on the climb.

Of the 748 individual ascents of Everest to date, more than 90 per cent have relied on bottled oxygen

to compensate for the increasing

lack of it as you go higher. This lack leads to difficulty in carrying out any physical activity, or think-

ing straight. Indeed, life above 7,000

metres is so debilitating that climbers know it as the "death zone".

Barnicott and the two other mem-

bers of the team went on to reach

the summit that day in perfect weather. But Blessed, left alone and unable to start until the sun rose

because of the immense cold, hardly managed to get much above Camp IV. Yet it was a decision admired by

those climbers who are more con-cerned with climbing the big peaks

in style rather than simply getting

Whether oxygen will be used this time is uncertain. Blessed is said to

have given Barnicott, his guide once again, a "categorical assur-ance" that he will. But, when quizzed on the matter before leav-

"Yes, there is great pressure on me to get to the top," he said. "I get 7,000 letters a week, and then there

is all the money I am raising for hospitals and other charities. True, I struggle up to 21,000ft. But, somebow, I seem to break free at 23,000, and last time I felt good at over 8,000 metres (26,200ft). I have never

used oxygen yet."
Steve Bell of Himalayan King-

doms, the man who has organised

the expedition, is in no doubt, "If he elects not to use oxygen, he will not

get to the top. It is as simple as

that. Only a few top-performing

mountaineering athletes - Alan Hinkes is one of them - are capable

of such a feat. The rest of us have to accept our mortal limitations."

But I cannot help sympathising with Brian Blessed. In all the climbs

I have made, I have never used oxy-

gen and neither have my climbing friends. But the temptation for me

to use it on this trip will be great.

to the top at all costs.

ing, he was non-committal.

It was a crucial decision.

Everest and the oxygen of challenge

FT journalist Richard Cowper reports on his attempt to scale Everest in the company of actor Brian Blessed, who is making his third assault

was among Britain's most unlikely climbing partners as we set off into Tibet by jeep and yak last week in an attempt to scale Mount Everest by its windswept north ridge, scene of all the great pre-war assaults on the world's highest

In the vanguard is Alan Hinkes, a brash, uncompromising, professional mountaineer at the peak of his career as an athlete, having climbed more 8,000 metres (26,200ft) Himalayan giants than any other

Teaming up with him, at 16 stone and just three months short of 60 years old, is larger-than-life actor Brian Blessed, a man obsessed by both Everest and by George Leigh Mallory, the legendary British climber who disappeared in mysterious circumstances somewhere above 27,000ft in 1924.

As a qualified guide and high altitude cameraman, Hinkes is being paid to accompany Blessed and film his quest for mountaineering stardom all the way to the top of the 8,848 metres (29,028ft) peak. But there seems little doubt that upper-most in Hinkes mind will be his own desire to reach the summit.

own desire to reach the summit.

"It's the highest mountain in the world, so it is important to me that I get to the top and knock it off. I don't want to have to go again," says Hinkes. His over-riding ambition is to become the first Englishman to reach all 14 of the world's 8,000-metre summits, a feat so far achieved by that three climbers. achieved by just three climbers.

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Blessed's is a more romantic approach. On his third - and possibly last - attempt on Everest, he had hoped to be carrying the remains of Captain John Noel, a friend and one of the earliest and greatest of Everest explorers, who died in 1989 aged 99. In 1913, Noel had even disguised himself as a Tibetan in order to get as close to

Blessed's plan was to apread Noel's ashes close to the very spot where his even more famous colleagues, Mallory and Andrew Irvine, disappeared on the north ridge 72 years ago.

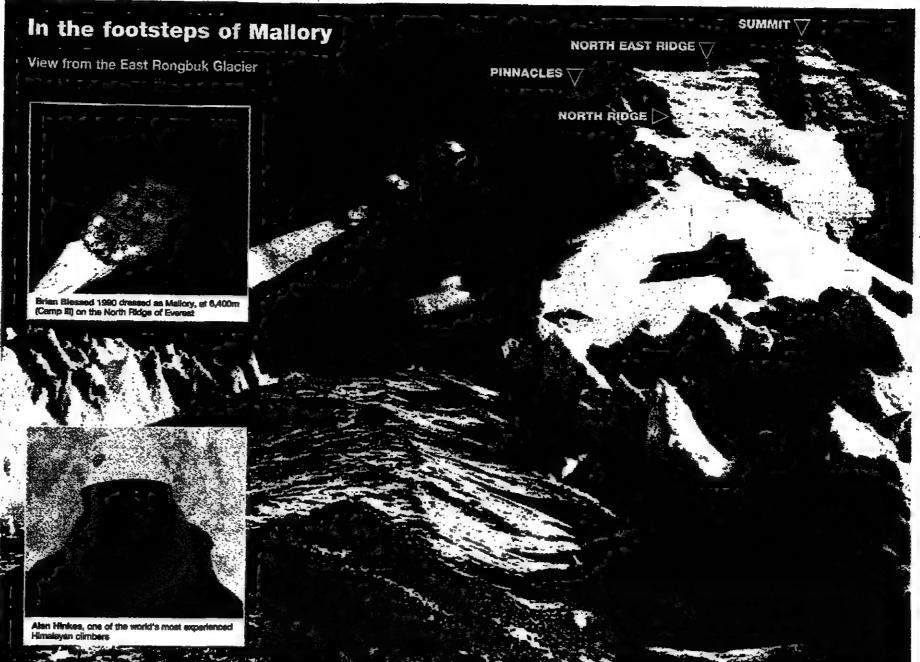
But, at the last moment, Noel's family decided the ashes should remain in England. Shrugging off his disappointment, Blessed says: "Instead, I am taking with me Gen-eral Bruce's ice axe from 1879. More important, the Dalai Lama has given me three sacred scarves to place on the summit; one for the

Tou may be vaguely familiar with the television habits

deserved international reputations

of the Japanese. One of the

country's more richly



Rustration by Brana Radovic

Faced with the stark choice of "confinal attempt ori-the summit from camp IV, just under 8,000 metres on the south col. Blessed shocked his

quering" Everest with oxygen or "failing" without, I cannot be sure that I will be honourable and brave enough to take the ethical route. ■ The expedition is being supported by Himalayan Kingdoms, North Face, Berghaus, Bollé, Snow + Rock,

peace of mankind, one for the mountain and one for himself."

Blessed's love affair with the upright, Blessed nevertheless conworld's highest summit was immortalised in 1990 with Galahad of

Everest, a BBC documentary film in

which he played Mallory. In spite of

trived to reach 25,400ft on his first attempt, a feat that astonished his mounisineering colleague

started six years ago by playing a part. Now, neither he nor we can tell where the acting ends and real-One colleague who has followed

Blessed's flare for the dramatic reached its height during his second

his career closely says: "Brian

attempt on Everest in autumn 1993 when he followed the "yak route", the now-traditional way to the top of the mountain on the south side.

three colleagues by announcing, without warning, that he was not going to use caygen. He told his personal guide? Martin Barnicott, Sherpa Tensing in 1963. At 3am on the morning of the

> tion, to force it to "lose face" and, of course, to risk disrupting the harmony that is so essential to the operation of Japanese companies.
>
> Obsessive loyalty to the company

combined with the customary Japanese fear of being seen to act alone prevented everyone concerned from certainly have signed the public to the dangers posed by Anm. Even if, at any point in the last six years, it speaking out. That same sense of obligation has

prevented countless others from questioning their employers' methods. This year alone, years after the events, revelations have just begun to emerge about cover-ups of HIVinfected blood for haemophiliacs. leaks at nuclear reactors, and banks' relations with organised

then why make the programme? It is also claimed, though denied by criminals. Japanese employees are taught to treat their company with the respect they accord their families. But most regard their obligations much more seriously than that. For them, the company is the family.

Every year, dozens demonstrate their commitment by working themselves to death in their compa py's service. It is still considered by some an almost heroic sacrifice. But when the same obsessive devotion leads directly to the deaths of innocent parties, it must be time for Japan's devoted employees to rethink their priorities.

and while I was steering up

Channel dealt me a blow in the ribs I will not forget in a hurry. Patience and skill are the

two commodities most in

demand when learning to sail a

vessel like the Matthew.

Strength comes in handy as

well, since every rope tends to

carry a significant load and

winches are non-existent, with

the exception of the anchor

windlass. The main yard and sail alone weigh half-a-ton.

Hoisting it just 30ft to its sail-

crow's nest is a 10-man job.

John Cabot sailed the north

Atlantic with just 19 aboard

his newly built barone. "Mod-

ern sailors think they're pretty

Letter from Tokyo / Gerard Baker

Why Japan needs whistle-blowers

is for the weird awfolness of its broadcasting. Stilted samural drama competes for the attention of 120m eager viewers with grotesque game shows that involve the contestants either taking off their clothes or enduring feats of physi-

cal torture beyond even the wildest imaginings of Quentin Tarantino. As with all stereotypes, this image is incomplete, of course. Knuckle-gnawing banality occupies only a part of Japanese television schedules. Among the livelier strains that now fill the longueurs between this so-called entertain-

ment is the investigative docu-

Matters of public interest of varying degrees of triviality are exposed in a genre dimly recognis able as US-current-affairs-tabloidchic. Intrepid, handsome reporters chase reluctant interviewees down dark streets, and the hand-held camera wobbles convincingly in

parsuit A few programmes actually manage to break through the gossip column agenda to tackle serious

trative abuses and corporate cor-ruption in between the sex lives of piece of investigative journalism, they discovered some unsettling the rich and famous. It is perhaps ironic then, that one such programme has done more damage to the reputation of Japa-

nese television than any number of tasteless game shows. It has dominated parliamentary debate for a week, deservedly earning the obioquy of the prime minister and prompting calls for a public inquiry into the ethics of television Property and advantages.

Its notoriety is especially remarkable since the programme has not In the autumn of 1989, current

affairs producers at Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS), Japan's largest commercial television company, began researching material for a documentary about the now infamous Aum Shimrikyo, the pseudoreligious sect alleged to have been responsible for last year's poisoned gas attack on the Tokyo subway.

information about what had hith erto been regarded as a bona fide, if somewhat strange, religious sect. led by the levitating and bearded mystic, Shoko Asahara. Aum's god. it seemed, was a jealous god requiring complete devotion from his members, usually forcing them to hand over their worldly goods, and cuiting up rough when they

The principal source of much of this subsequently confirmed infor-mation was an interview taped by the producers with a lawyer, Tsut sumi Sakamoto, who had himself been investigating these claims of abuse and was only too pleased to get his research into the public

The interview was scheduled to be broadcast in November 1989, but at the end of October the producers received an argent call from Aum. Members had got to hear of the

that it might be libellous. They demanded to see it. Instead of doing what even the

most craven of reporters would do and telling them to get lost, the programme-makers actually invited the Aum members in to see the tape. Three heavies from the sect duly trooped into the studios of TBS and received a private show-

denounced by the con-vincing Sakamoto, the Aum members repeated their warning to TBS not to broadcast the interview. The company obliged - the interview was never broadcast. A few days later Sakamoto, his wife and their one-year old son disappeared. Their bodies were found last September, six

years later. The company's behaviour at the time and subsequently is now a attempt to give information about the interview to police investigating the disappearance of the Sakamoto family. As revelations began to pile up over the next six years about the activities of Anm. the company still kept silent. Even after the Tokyo subway attack last year, it said nothing. It was only when one of the Aum conspirators arrested for the attack told police about the interview and the subsequent murder of Sakamoto, that

the news emerged.

Byen then, TBS denied any know-ledge of the interview and its subsequent shelving. Eventually last week, under intense political and public pressure, the company owned up and acknowledged that its producers had been involved. It is hard to resist the conclusion

that Japan's leading commercial television company was not only an accessory to the murder of Sakaime and subsequently is now a moto, but quite possibly to the nurse of national chame.

On no occasion did TBS ever attack last year. If TBS had broad-

had made known what its produc-ers had discovered, it might have

averted the tragedies that occurred.

Yet the company kept its counsel.

that TBS counts a number of Aum

members among its employees. But

the company, that the producers

hoped to trade the non-airing of their programme for a subsequent

Whatever the reason for the extraordinary decision to comply with Aum's demands it would not

explain the company's six-year fail-

are to reveal what it knew until

The likeliest explanation for this

failure is a simple, but tragic fact

of Japanese corporate life. Nobody

at the company could bring them-

selves to admit the error. To do so

much too late.

interview with Asahara himself.

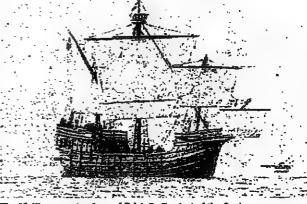
Why? There are some allegations

In Cabot's wake

Keith Wheatley sets sail in a replica barque

The Matthew represents a considerable challenge for the modern seamen more accustomed to Kevlar and carbon fibre than manila and canvas. The skipper controls the ship from the poop deck, a long, loud shout away from the helmsman down below. David Alan-Williams, known as a racing sailor and yacht designer until now, is the skipper. He was part of the victorious New Zealand team that won the America's Cup in San Diego last year - though at the draw-

ing board, not the helm. The first offshore race I nothing like a steep learning curve. says Alan-Williams. "It's the same with being both a sailor and a designer. There aren't many people who do both but in the early days of yachting it was commonplace." Matthew is technically a "navicula" - better known in



The Mistinew, centrepiece of Bristol's Festival of the Sea wine and sherry merchants. At

new Matthew manages just about four knots an hour when the wind is blowing. But since Cabot averaged barely 40 miles a day, it should be able to keep

known as a "50-tunner", a measurement derived from the number of barrels, or tuns, of wine she was capable of bringing from the sunny lands of the south to the famous Bristol

81ft overall, 68ft on deck with a 20ft beam, the Matthew feels a little "square" to anyone accustomed to the narrower style of a modern sailing vessel. Underwater she draws just six feet and her rounded hull makes her both roll and steer unpredictably.

The giant tiller is a solid piece of oak nearly 12ft long. massive in cross-section, and

clever but those guys five censmarter," says Neil Batt, mate on the Matthew's maiden voyage from Bristol to London. Batt knows what he is talking about, since his regular job is skippering the racing

maxi yacht Longobarda. "It's hard work - there are so many ropes," he says. Batt's involvement came about because Longobarda's owner, the well-known British yachtsman Mike Slade, is also head of Helical Bar, the London-based property company that has underwritten the \$1.5m cost of building this piece of floating history.

■ The Matthew can be seen in London at City Pier, next to

Culloden revisited

Britain took place 250 years ago next Tues-day when George II's army under the Duke of Cumberland routed the Jacobite forces of Prince Charles Edward Stuart, "Bonnie Prince Charlie", at Culloden, near

Inverness, Scotland.
At that battlefield on April 16, the National Trust for Scotland opens a fascinating exhibition called The Swords and the Sorrows. It is open from Sam to 6pm every day until September 20, the day Charles Edward left Scotland. For, although the battle was over in an hour, Charles Edward took to the heather, eventually leaving Scotland in a French ship five months later.

Lining up at Culloden were well-fed Redcoats with muskets and cannon, on the other the ill-fed and tired Highlanders in their tartans, with their Irish and French allies. The boggy ground, crossed by dykes, was hopeless for the Highlanders, used to making terrifying sword-charges which had won them earlier battles in the '45 uprising.

The killing carried on all of that day, and the following. While Charles Edward was hunted from glen to glen, the Hanoverians exacted horrible have done well but he had

reprisals. Murder, torture, rape and pillage were the role.

The Highlanders' cattle, sheep and horses were driven south in huge numbers.

The London government set out to destroy a way of life. The plaid (which kept the Highlanders warm) and kilt were forbidden, and weapons were to be handed in. The clan chiefs' authority was removed in an act of 1747. The next blow was "the Clearances" the widespread evictions in the Highlands and Islands between 1785 and 1850 in the name of more profitable agriculture.

The '45 will always be a poignant story. Charles Edward landed on the west coast (in August 1745) with a few men to reclaim the thrones of Scotland, England and Ireland for the Stuarts and rally the Highland chiefs. By September he had taken Edinburgh, and the Highland charge destroyed the Hanoverian army at the nearby battle of Prestonpans.

Charles Edward turned south eager to maintain the momentum of his attack. His speed terrified London, triggering a run on the Bank of England. On December 4 the Jacobites entered Derby.

Charles Edward wanted to

invaded England too early. without the support of the English Jacobites and before the French could invade. But the Jacobite council voted to retreat to Scotland, removing the most dangerous threat to Britain in the 18th century. The French sept an Irish and French force to Scotland.

Could it have been different? Only if the French had helped Charles Edward continuously and on a large scale. But the French were more concerned to extend their land frontier eastwards into the Low Countries than to overthrow the Hanoverians. Like Bosnia, the '45 took place under the shadow of big international players, but remained a local drama of tribal, religious and

dynastic loyalties. This summer's exhibition includes Jacobite weapons and equipment dropped on the field or hidden after the battle. Of Charles Edward's are a sporting gun, bonnet, campaign kettle, medicine chest and blue ribbon of the Order of the Garter. The best pieces are probably also his - a fine sword and a leather targe (Highland shield) in silver.

Visitor Centre, tel 01463-Gerald Cadogan found in churches and private

he Matthew is an authentic replica of the small sailing ship in which John Cabot became the first European to visit North America, in the summer of 1497. It has taken two years to

build, using entirely traditional methods, at a public slipway in Bristol and will be the centrepiece of that city's Festival of the Sea from May 24-27. Next summer the Matthew is to cross the north Atlantic in a re-enactment of the voyage which took Cabot to Newfoundland and down the eastern seaboard to Boston, Last week it made its maiden

voyage – a shake-down cruise up the English Channel. Designer Colin Mudie has created numerous squareriggers in the past two decades, mostly as training vessels. He is also the driving force behind the proposal that the Royal Yacht Britannia

should be replaced with a

handsome sailing ship the size

of the Cutty Sark. However, the Matthew represented a dual challenge for Mudie. It had to be as historically accurate as possible yet the sources he had to work from were minimal. There were no ship's drawings lodged at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. Cahot's shipwrights had worked by eye and folklore. So Mudie took as

his starting point drawings,

The parms of the Hagis, evocations of Sexual Particulty 1 Hollacture 1 museum case its the minent when compared to one of the last its more than half and

ever took part in was the Fastnet and the second was the Whithread Race, so there's

Tudor times as a harque. This type of small cargo ship, with a high fo'csle and poop deck, was found all over the Mediterranean then and would have been familiar to the Italianborn Cabot from his earliest days at sea. With all four sails set, the

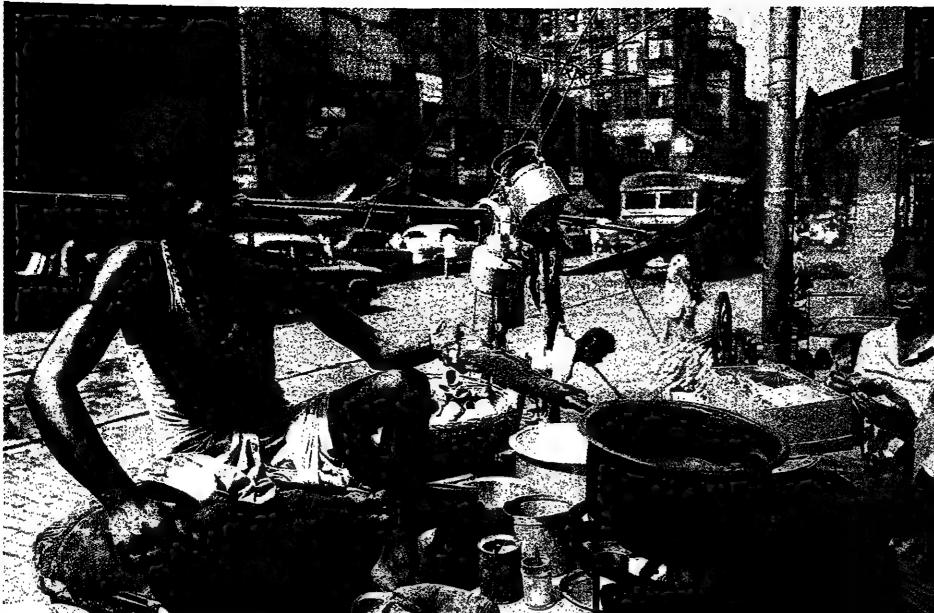
to that fairly comfortably. In its day it would have been

tiller has a kick like a mule

weighing around 400lb. When a wave catches the rudder, the

Tower Bridge, until April 18.

FOOD AND DRINK



to cuppe; hot tee with milk on the streets of Calcutta

Breakfasts

Starting the day with chapattis

George Dorgan begins an occasional series with a look at what London's Asian community offers

skfast was in Sylhet in northern Bangladesh, across the border with Assam. and it was not just the strong, local tea that was an eye-opener.

Over the years, I have tried a lot of sub-continental cuisines, but Indian breakfast was terra incognita, a new world to explore.

As first experiences go, this one was special. After all, not every visiting journalist gets invited to the district governor's Raj-period bungalow for breakfast, but the fact that I was in a probably beloed.

There were about a dozen of us breakfasting on chapattis and a lightly spiced mutton curry, pooris, dhai, a kind of cabbage cooked in ghee and a variety of sweets - Bangladeshis share a sweet tooth with the Moslem-influenced part of northern

India stretching across to Pakistan. It is not easy to find Indian restau-rants in the UK that serve breakfast. but it is worth the effort to search them out. Restaurants in the heart of Indian communities do breakfast dishes at the weekends; and the south Indian vegetarian restaurants will serve traditional breakfast Items for

lunch and dinner. Namita Panjabl is director of cuisine at Chuthey Mary's in King's Road, London SW10, and is one of the

public faces of Indian cooking in She says that Indian breakfasts are basically brunches: "People don't get up at 7am and leave for work. The

whole business community starts much later, at 11am, so a substantial

breakfast is your main daytime meal and is eaten at 10.30am."

Indian breakfast dishes would make a wonderful weekend brunch. There are probably thousands of breakfast dishes, reflecting the range of local produce across the sub-continent. South India concentrates on rice

products and dhai and, by common consent among chefs, has had the greatest influence; dishes from the outh are served at breakfast all over India. North India will have wheat and either a vegetable or something sweet. Very few pockets - like the Parsis (who are Zoroastrians) or or the Moslems - will have non-vegetarian items for breakfast.

Henry Lobo, chaf at Veeraswamy, in Regent Street, London, is from Goa but when he thinks of breakfast he thinks of the infinite variety of south Indian dishes.

Some, like masala dosa, a crispy rice and lentil flour pancake stuffed with spicy potato and uttappa, a sort of pizza made from white lentil dough topped with chopped onion, tomato, corrander and chillies, are regularly served in south Indian vegetarian restaurants. So are idlis, steamed rice flour cakes served with sambhar, a vegetable broth of dhal, aubergines, and okra flavoured with asafoetida-

served with green coconut chutney. You would have to look far and wide to find dahi wada - deep-deepfried doughnuts of fermented lentil dough, flavoured with onions, coriander, green chill, soaked in slightly sweetened yoghurt. Masala poha, from the west Indian state of Mahareshtra. is a mix of flaked rice and diced potato with mustard and cumin

seeds, curry leaves, onion, turmeric, chopped tomatoes and coriander.

I find myself craving uppma, a humble cross between porridge and cous-cous, made from pan-roasted semolina, flavoured with mustard seeds, urid dhal, curry leaves, cashews, chopped onion and corian-

Fans of Indian cuisine working in the City of London will probably be familiar with Cyrus Todiwala, the chef/proprietor of Café Spice Namaste. In the past few years his exciting cooking has attracted a loyal following. He is now in partnership lensky's) and in premises that are as lively as his cooking.

odiwsla made the best egg dish i have ever tasted, called akooni. This is soft almost runny - scrambled eggs with a base of long-cooked onions, ginger, garlic, green chillies and flavoured with tomato, coriander, lemon juice, sultanss and sugar.

I thought his uppma was perfect as he adds ginger, garlic and green chillies. He also prepared a spicier version of idits from Kerala called rawa idii, made from semolina and yoghurt with tomatoes, green chillies, ginger and curry leaves to flavour the

Todiwala is a Parsi and they often have meat or fish for breakfast, frequently using offal and less popular shes. He makes fried kidneys and liver, which are first rubbed and left to stand with tandoori spices - corlander, cumin, turmeric, ginger, garlic and red chillies.

The same method is used with grey

muliet, devil fish and other cuts of offal such as the spleen. Enam Ali is chef/proprietor of Le Raj in Epsom. Surrey, and one of the founders of the Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateurs.

The spiced tea he prepared recently for the British Tea Council is a traditional breakfast drink - made with Sylheti tea, which is strong, dark and astringent, boiled with cinnamon, cardamon, milk and sugar. We shared some traditional Bangladeshi breakfast dishes as the sun was sinking over Epsom Downs, including

dim bhaji - a spicy omelette made with onion and hot red and green can be eaten with chapatti or paratha. and the dish reflects the Anglo influence in Indian cooking.

The Bangladeshi sweet tooth showed in dishes like sana, a moderately sweet homemade cheese flavoured with rose water, served with kaun fruit (like passion fruit) and sugar cane sprinkled on top. Ali also prepared suff holog, a sweet small ake made with very fine-grained semolina, cooked in water and milk. with cinnamon, cardamon and chee.

I tried two extraordinary Pakistani dishes made by A.W. Qureshi, chef/ proprietor at Machaan on King's Road, Chelsea. Halim is a fabulously rich, fragrant stew/broth/porridge of mutton, lentils and spices slowly cooked for six or seven hours, served with green chillies, ginger and well-browned onions and is a pre-taste of paradise. Nehari is an even longer cooked mutton shank stew that just fails off the bone and is served with naan bread. Very rich, loaded with

for. Both can be found on Sunday

mornings in restaurants in Pakistani

Naresh Mata, chef at the Red Fort in Soho, is from Delhi and along with familiar pooris (wholewheat bread that puffs up in frying) served with spicy potatoes, he also makes pattern like a poori made from refined white flour with yoghurt and ground semolina - and this is served with choic, spicy chick peas. Tamarind sauce or tamarind and date chuiney

usually go with it.
Suji hahoa is also popular around Delhi and Mata makes his loose, like a sweet porridge, with sultanas and s ara Dodduar idi breakfast, filled with potato, green chillies, coriander and ground pomegranate seeds.

Mehernosh Mody is also a Parsi and is chef at London's first Franco-Indian restaurant, La Porte des Indes, a luxurious 350-seater at Marble Arch which is run by the group behind The Blue Elephant at Fulham Broadway.

He offered another version of akoori made from boiled - instead of scrambled - eggs. Onions, green chillies and ginger are cooked with tomatoes, adding the chopped egg whites, chop-

the whole, boiled yolks at the end.

And a popular breakfast snack sold by street vendors in Bombay is made with a spicy mashed potato mix seasoned with coriander, green chillies. onions, turmeric and red chilli powder, spread on sliced white bread dipped in gram flour batter and deep

All ingredients can be obtained from Indian shops or by post from: The Curry Club, PO Box 1, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 LEP. Tel: 01428-658327.

Shopping

Great lady revisited

Giles MacDonogh on a top traiteur

bout 15 Christmases ago, long before there was any whiff of glasmost in the air, the French press copied a story from their Soviet counterparts. Pravda or Isvestia, or one of the even less respectable papers of the day, had published a gloating article about food queues in Paris. It was emblazoned with a picture of the place de la Madeleine and a long line of elegant parisiennes in mink coats armed with shopping baskets. "You see," the caption allegedly ran, "it

happens even in France." There is no reason to believe that the nicture was a fake. At Christmas time it is not unusual to see long queues outside the city's best traiteurs, as well-heeled families stock up on their foie gras, boudins blancs truffes, smoked salmon, caviar and other luxuries for the festive season. One shop I know, the minuscule Coesnon in the rue Dauphine, is even considerate enough to take little patés chauds out to the

waiting hordes. In the place de la Madeleina are Paris's two most famous traiteurs: Hediard and Fauchon. The latter was founded by Auguste Fauchon in 1886. Fauchon was a humble Norman who began to ply his trade from a glorified barrow on the place de la Madeleine.

With time the barrow gave way to a lean-to on the comer of the place and the rue Vig-non, where Fauchon's main building still stands. Then the temporary structure turned into the building we know today, and Fauchon had added a wine shop, saloon for afternoon tea and patissier to the original conception.

By 1910 Fauchon had taken over five houses in and around the place de la Madeleine. A catalogue published about that time makes interesting reading. For example, there were rather more English products on display than one might have imagined: plum pudding. Huntley and Palmer's biscuits, Grosse (sic) and Blackwell jams, Colman's mustard and Reading Saucs. There was also Jameson Whiskey from Dublin and Dewar's whisky from Scot-

There was plenty of Russian caviar dut French naturally dominated the range: sugared almonds for christenings, marrons alacés. Madefavoured by Proust, Fruit compotes, asparagus from the Paris suburb of Argenteuil, truffles, foie gras, paté en croute extra virgin olive oil from Nice and Houdan chickens (which fetched a higher price than those from Bresse). River fish were rather more

valued then, with gudgeon and tench selling for the same amount as salmon. The wine list surprises, not only by the place accorded to top German wines but also because Saint Emilion and Pomerol often achieved better prices than Médocs. The 1899 Petrus was 25 centimes more expensive than the 1904 Latite. The most sive wine of all was the 1874 Château Mondot-Trolong (sic) from Saint Emilion As is so often the case, Fauchon's children lacked the acumen of their father. After his death in 1938 the business slumped. In 1952 his heirs sold out to Joseph Pilosoff who pumped new life into the shop by negating the seasons, and confounding the Parisians with offers of cherries and strawber ries at Christmas-time: the result of his close links with

Today Fauchon is run by Pilosoff's granddaughter, Martine Premat. My own experience of Fauchon goes back to a leaner youth. Like every other struggling man or woman in Paris I had my nose pressed up against the windows in the ace de la Madeleine, staring at the extraordinary canonds oux fruits: whole ducks decked with slices and pieces of fruit or the piles of boudins stuffed with every imaginable delicacy; the terrines and the pâte and the fabulous workmanship of the patissier. I rack my brains, but I cannot recall a single occasion when I went in

That was before Martine Premat's time. She took over in 1986 and one of her first objectives was to democratise the Grande Dame de la Madeleine. Gift ideas were remodelled to bring them within the reach of the average Frenchman, Fauchon corners were established in 500 French supermarkets with a limited range of their most famous products: mustards, jams and biscuits.

introduced remat another concept to Fauchon. In the 1920s the shop had a luncheon room. She decided to recreate it and put other restaurants and eating places into spare corners, so that now you can eat caviar, oysters, or an Italian meal in the trattoria after picking up your shopping. The traiteur continues to provide ready-made food of superb

The new star attraction is the restaurant "le 30" which is open for lunch and dinner. Here the chef, Bruno Deligno produces dishes of the highest standard, such as an escalope of fresh foie gras with pre roasted for six hours. The cakes are brought up from Fauchon's famous patissier,

rierre naru In contrast, downstairs there is a cafeteria which claims to sell the cheapest espresso in sandwiches, salads and grills may be had, if not for a pittance, at very competitive prices. I am sceptical, however, as to whether there is much scope for a "People's" Fau-

Fauchon was the stuff of dreams, or very fat wallets. The place would need to do rather more than alter the shape of its packets before it could fit in with the Soviet able whether such a view has any more validity anyhow. ■ Fauchan, 26 piace de la Madeleine, Paris 75008. Tel: 47 42 60 11, Le 30, 47 42 56 58 Fauchon outlets are to be found

in Britain at John Lewis ¿

(0171-629 7711) and Selfridges

(0171-629 1234) in Oxford Street,

ritish Summertime signals the start of Well, that is the the ory. In practice, snowflakes are fluttering past the window as write. It is a half-hearted effort just a few flakes, like the tired tail-end of a pillow-fight, but

zero to think in terms of eating crisply chilled foods. The Little Gem lettuces 1 bought in a moment of optimistic enthusiasm will have to be cooked. Never mind, they are almost better hot than cold, and more unusual served that

the temperature is too close to

Sometimes 1 braise them whole with nuggets of butter and a splash each of vermouth and chicken stock. Sometimes I split them and stuff them before braising. But when time is short I quarter them or shred them and cook them on top of the stove, as described

The only trouble is that you

John Armit Wines Limited S Royaly Saudos, NS Latezaser Road, London Will IQF Telechops 0171-7276844 Fast 0171-7277133

Cookery / Philippa Davenport

Salad days and mad prawns

need larger quantities of lettuce for cooking than for making salads, and as Beatrix Potter pointed out in Peter Rabbit eating a lot of lettuce can have a soporific effect. This is not the season for slipping into hibernation, so it may be wise to allow a few days in between

cooking these recines. PRAWNS WITH LETTUCE AND COCONUT CREAM

The phrase "Mad tiger prawns" may raise a few eyebrows but not, it does not refer to some sinister newly discovered disease in crustaceans; it is merely the abbreviation used by the fish counters of some supermarkets to identify tiger prawns from Madagascan waters. Ready shelled and raw, spoon olive oil.

The 1995 Bordeaux from John Armit

they can be bought defrosted or still frozen, a useful ingredient for quick midweek meals. The flavour and texture of these warm water prawns lack the full sweetness of those from cold northern waters, but

I find them very acceptable

when cooked with flavoursome ingredients as here. 250-300g raw peeled prawns:

4-6 Little Gem lettuces (enough to yield 400-500g after trimming away roots and coarse outer leaves): 1 tablespoon or so very finely chopped green ginger: I finely chopped garlic clove; 2 tablespoons chopped green coriander, the finely grated zest of 1 lime: 100ml coconut cream; 20g unsalted butter plus 1 table-

have large quantities of the very best châteaux.

a reputable and financially secure merchant.

Past experience shows that it is vital to buy from

Chop the ginger, garlic and coriander. Shred the lettuces. Put the ginger and garlic into a large saute pan together with the butter and olive oil and place over low heat until hot

and aromatic. Meanwhile, simmer the coconut cream in a small pan for a few minutes to reduce it a lit-

Add the lettuce to the sauté pan and toss till every shred glistens with fat. Then cook over moderate heat for six minutes or so, stirring and turning the leaves as necessary, to drive off their moisture, reduce them in bulk and thoroughly heat them through yet retain slight crunch.

Cook the prawns simultaneously. Drop them into the simmering coconut cream, push them down into the liq-uid as much as possible and cook fairly gently, stirring as necessary, until the flesh has

turned pink. Season the cooked lettuces with salt, pepper, lime zest and green coriander. Gently but thoroughly mix in the prawns in coconut cream - never mind if the cream begins to look a little curdled - and serve straight away with plain boiled

DUCK WITH GINGER, LETTUCE AND PEAS

Duck with green peas is a traditional British spring dish, while duck with ginger, spring onions and soy is an orienta favourite. The two combina-

tions marry well. Spring is so late this year that frozen peas are the only practical choice as yet. Use garden peas, not petits pois, and be sure they are plain ones, not the poor things that have been impregnated with an overdose of menthol, like those "cool as a mountain stream" Consulate cigarettes of 20-30 years ago.

400g boned-out duck breasts; 350-400g shredded Little Gem lettuce; 150-200g shelled peas; 6-8 spring onions; 1 slightly heaped tablespoon finely chopped green ginger; a few sprigs of mint; a few shakes of soy

Heat a large, heavy duty non-stick sauté pan. Lay the duck in it, skin-side down, and immediately reduce the heat. Cook fairly gently until tender and slightly pink, about 12 minutes (or until done to your liking). Turn the duck occasionally but leave it skin side down for most of the time to avoid toughening the

Put the cooked duck to rest in a low oven, and pour all but

a couple of tablespoons of fat from the pan. Stir in the spring omions and ginger. After a couple of minutes add the lettuce. Toss it to coat it with fat and cook fairly gently for 6 minutes or so, stirring occasionally, until most of the liquid is driven off, the lettuce is hot and cooked through yet retains a little bite.

While the lettuce cooks, boil the peas (if the peas are fresh and somewhat starchy, it may be necessary to start cooking them earlier).

Add the cooked and drained peas to the lettuce. Season and a discrete sprinkling of mint. Carve the duck, lay the slices over the vegetables and collected on the carving plate. Garnish with a jaunty sprig of mint and serve with new potatoes or Chinese noodles.

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Country Cooking (Rosendale, £14.99). On April 30 Lyn Hall will demonstrate the art of sausage-making. May 14 brings ice-cream supremo Robin Weir and May 28 is

baker Linda Collister's turn. Apologies for my suggestion that Borodinsky sourdough rye bread is suitable for coeliacs (Weekend FT, March 9). This loaf is, alas, not made with gluten-free flour and is therefore unsuitable for

What I should have said is that the gluten in rye flour is different from that in wheat, and many who are intolerant to wheat may be able to eat rye flour products.

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Maria Section

F 17

The X factor that appeals

American designers that British women love so much - the certain something that sets the like of Calvin Klein and Donna Karan apart from the international fashion

hurly-barly? Well, according to Harvey Nichols, a store that offers the full gamut of sartorial possibilities, the X factor is east. In a world of said bright, printed hipsters and fluffy midriff-baring skinny knits. US design is the voice

of reason.
"These are clothes for the sophisticated woman who wears what she likes and likes what she wears," says Nick Walker, one of the store's buying team. "She has found what she wants from fashion - she knows what suits her. She will not follow just any trend." Speaking of the store's Big Four names - Ralph Lauren,

and Michael Kors - Walker describes stateside style as refined and clean, using exquisite fabrics and great colours.

In particular, he highlights Michael Kors as the name to watch. Aiready selling exceptionally well this spring, his fresh, understated to an even wider audience when his diffusion collection is introduced next autumn. "We believe in Kors very strongly," explains Walker. "He's massive in America and we feel that his name could become almost as important for us as Ralph

Belinda Morris

☐ Above: fine silk grosgrain pull-on jacket, £570, and slim, liat-fronted fine off: grosgrain trousers, £340, both by Michael Kors at Harvey Nichols (tel: 0171 235-5000)



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FASHION

Working wear in New York

After all the fripperies in Europe, at last here are desirable clothes, says Marion Hume

here used to be a tremendous feeling of relief when the international fash ion caravan pulled into New York City.

After the experiments of London, the fron fron of Paris, the endless beige that once characterised Milanese style lashion, New York guaranteed well-designed clothes for working women who also had weekends, and, occasionally, for trophy wives and movie stars.

Every outfit on the New York runways had a purpose. Every outfit could be imagined on a body that was not that of a supermodel. Now York fashion

schedule has grown. More and more designers based in New York are becoming well known abroad: Isaac Mizrahi (designer and star of the movie Unzip-ped). Todd Oldham (who has his own line but also designs for Escada), Marc Jacobs (whose downtown aesthetic manages to transfer well to London) and Anna Sui, whose best friend is the million-dollar photographer, Steven Meisel, which always ensures her publicity. The New York shows have

expanded from showroom pre-sentations to huge perfor-mances in tents. But the downside is the arrival of "catwalk clothes" - those designed for the big canvas of the fashion show and which can have no life beyond it.

Of course, fashion shows anywhere produce some clothes that no one in their right mind would covet. The worst in the US this season were at Anna Sni. Who today would want to look like Dora Carrington or Lady Ottoline Morrell is a mystery to me. But Anna Sui – who has obviously seen the Emma Thompson film a few more times than is good for her - seemed to think that droopy, floppy dresses and hefty jackets that made even models appear barrel-chested

Happily, clothes from America's "Big Three" - Calvin Klein, Raiph Lauren and Donna Karen - that will arrive in stores in six months' time were more desirable. Both Lauren and Karan headed back to the intimacy of their showrooms, away from the brouwhich has helped neither of them recently.

They showed real clothes and each came up with their strongest collection in seasons. Meanwhile, Calvin Klein stayed with a big show in a big tent, but sent out no outfit that was not meant to have a life beyond the flash-bulbs and the supermodel bodies.

Lauren, Klein and Karan have three of the most successful labels on earth and when they stick to what they do best it is not hard to see why. In recent seasons, Donna Karan (who numbers Barbra Streisand among her friends) has gone a little too "Broadway" in her tastes. Skirts have been too big for off-stage lives and shapes too overblown for the street-to-office-to-taxi-to-dinner

lives that her wealthy working women customers experience. Thankfully, for next autumn. fans will find her back on target, with her body-supporting wool double crepe stretch unitards and her slender snede jackets and cashmere turtle

When the model, Shalom, appeared towards the end of Karan's show with what looked like lumps of coal strung across her brow, you knew the designer was not going to miss a beat. The devoré cutaway velvet evening dresses that followed were perhaps a little too revealing for most Karan devotees. But the simplicity of a black cashmere wrap sweater and viscose satin evening skirt should more than

It will also be worth waiting six months for Karan's maxilength bitter chocolate suede wrap cost and her slinky navy shirts that follow the body, but do not reveal an embarrassing amount of it. Her garnet cashmere and angora swing coat may well prove desirable enough to be chosen over the more wear-with-anything practicality of a black or navy

At Ralph Lauren there were





Celvia Klein: the standout silk lersey dress of the sesson.

inine and the bright ties unlikely to be worn by men. Also inspired by menswear was his suede safari jacket and matching jeans, reminiscent of the garb tough undercover cops used to wear on those 1970s TV series. Calvin Klein is the modernist

ette of narrow jackets over to Ralph Lauren's romantic ankle-length skirts or flared and has doubtless not watched trousers. These can look sur-prisingly slimming once you a 1970s TV series since 1970. get over the fact the flare

Ting Parin's and or ising the Magic "evocations of Sexual. Attributly limited that and an analysis are ministrative when compared to one of the 25 h 5 more than han an a



reminiscent of Halston

Klein's new collection had a sleek modern edge, best seen in a navy one-shouldered evening column which demonstrated a stunning use of today's favourite fabric - silk

Klein's silhouette from day to evening started with a nar-row shoulder, whether in layers of turtle neck and to-the-



Ralph Lauren: Savile Row-style pinstriped single-breasted talloring

ankle wrap-around sweater with slightly flared trousers.

There is no philosophy behind the best American shows. No effort is made to reflect the spirit of the times or to present what we wear as something for pundits to indulge in psycho-babble

Only the worst shows have a theme - of a movie or a histor-



it via fabric. The best Ameri-can clothes are there to sell well. It is as simple as that. So it is a relief to see them and to realise that next autumn - with its return to colour and its emphasis on a slimmer silhouette than we have seen in a while - it is not going to be so difficult to dress for after all.



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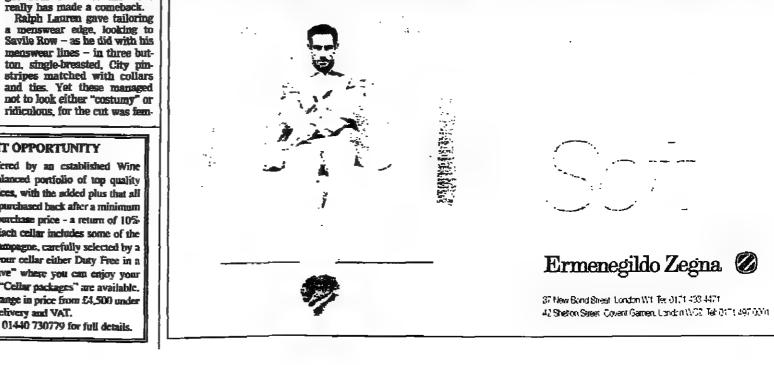
from Ralph Lauren were shirts

and turtle-neck sweaters that

would update an existing ward-

robe, and the slender silhou-

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PROPERTY

ressure for places in the schools which consistently star in the government's league tables is forcing parents to househunt ever earlier in their children's lives. To get into the right secondary school, they need to get into the correct feeder school and to get into that they may have to live in the right area by the time their eldest child reaches the tender age of four. Eton may have stiff entry requirements, but at least it does not involve moving house.

School hot-spots and property hotspots have been merging ever closer since the publication of school league tables. The more evidence there is for a school's success, the greater the competition becomes for places, meaning a growing demand for houses in the right area.

In those areas, home owners who have outgrown the education system can find an over-supply of buyers bidding up the price of their house. For young parents it means a grim struggle to buy in the right catchment area. As one relocation agent remarked, these days every-one knows which schools are top of

This pressure for places looks set to increase still further. The government has decided to publish the results of the national tests currently being taken by seven and 11-year-olds, which will mean league tables for primary as well as

secondary schools.
In February, the publication of a list of 200 outstanding schools by the Chief Inspector in his annual report was immediately picked up by estate agents. Within two weeks, one primary school featured was being mentioned in the particulars of a bouse being sold in its catchment area.

Peter Wilde, one of the Compass group of relocation agents, estimates that the right catchment area adds at least 10 per cent to the price or rental value of a good house. For properties which are generally difficult to sell, such as those built in the 1960s and 1970s, it can mean the difference between selling or not.

The demand applies equally in the state and the private sector. Wilde had one City client moving from London to Northamptonshire who was willing to increase his rental budget from £1,500 to £2,000 a month in order to be near his preferred prep school. The family was only prepared to buy when it had established that the school was as good as it had hoped.

Knight Frank in Oxford was asked to find one family a house within 20 minutes drive of the recently opened Chandlings Manor pre-prep school. It said the headmistress felt no child of that age should travel for more than 20 minutes in the car before school.





How schools affect home prices

Anne Spackman explains why parents could soon be putting their children down for Eton and Cluttons

Although there are good schools creating pockets of high demand all over the UK, two of the highest concentrations are in north Oxford and Buckinghamshire. Two years after Chandlings Manor opened in Oxford, The Dragon, the city's most popular prep school, opened Lynams, its own pre-prep, in September. The trend for strong schools to open feeder schools is increasing, according to Isis, the independent schools information service. It says the number of under-fives educated privately has risen from 5.5 per cent in 1984 to 6.8 per cent in 1994.

The Dragon and Lynams are among several good schools in north Oxford. Families who buy in the area tend to stay, making for a shortage of properties for sale. Savills' Banbury office has just put a typical five-bedroom Victorian semi in Farndon Road on the market. Top of the particulars comes the information that it is within a 10minute walk of Oxford High School for Girls, and within easy access to both St Edwards and The Dragon School, in need of modernisation, it is priced at £375,000 and two bidders are already competing above the guide price.

We have noticed a marked increase in demand in the last two years from people who wish to be accessible to the excellent schooling in and around Oxford," says Ian McConnell, of Savills. "Within Oxford itself there is a requirement to be within walking distance of the schools. There are significant value variations within a relatively small area. For example, not having to cross a major road between the house and the school would enhance the value of a property."

rently selling a house which meets that criterion. The four-storey semi in Norham Road is slightly smaller than the traditional north Oxford house but its hefty price of £435,000 may be a reflection of the fact that it is near Dragon Lane which leads directly to the Dragon School. John Little, of agents John D the league tables and the Chief Wood, says it is difficult to find any Inspector of schools' top 200 is

Knight Frank in Oxford is cur-

family house in north Oxford for under £350,000. The good Victorian six-bedroom houses are now going for \$400,000 and more. He has recently sold a two-bedroom garden flat for £185,000 and a large three-bedroom flat on Woodstock Road for £285,000. "Outside of the very best home counties locations, we must have the closest prices to London," Little said. "If the right house comes up, we can introduce 40 or 50 potential buyers immediately. Anything good goes very fast."

The other Oxfordshire hot spot is to the south of the city where com-muters to London seek to compro-mise their need to be near Didcot railway station with their children's schooling. Cluttons has just taken on a five-bedroom Grade II listed Georgian house in Dorchester on Thames priced at £385,000. Fifteen families have looked at it in the first week - half seeking to leave London to be near good schools.

The county which stars in both

bastions of the grammar school. Peter Gibbs, who runs Hamptons' office in Maidenhead, Berkshire, is one of many who has decided to live across the border.

"It is vital to live within the "It is vital to live within the county boundary if you want to get into the schools," Gibbs says. "We wanted our daughters to go to one of two good primary schools, St Nicholas's at Taplow or Dorney School. The junior schools tend to feed the good grammar schools and the chance of getting such a good education without having to pay for

it is a great incentive."

David Ellerington is the education specialist for Compass Reloca-tion and a former headmaster. He provides a similar service on the schools front as his colleagues do on the property side, finding the best schools for individual families. He says grammar schools are the greatest magnet for parents. "Some parents will extend their mortgage to purchase a house in a grammar school area because they don't have

to consider the costs of private education," he says. "It is a chicken and egg situation: if the schools are known to be good, house prices go up. London is one of the most difficult places. If you are not into the system early on you find it very difficult to slot in later. All the

schools are full." Karen and Mike Ghazarian faced this problem with their two children, Christopher and Abigail, aged six and five. They live in Buckinghamshire, in the right village for the school they wanted, but they were one street beyond the catch-

The family found a house within the area for Ley Hill County Combined school, but the deal fell through at the last minute and they lost their place. "I phoned Chesham Prep and asked if we could take up our place there, but we were too late," Karen Ghazarian said. "We considered buying a small house and renting it out just to have an address in the catchment area. In the end we got in on appeal, after

INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY

showing them solicitors' letters which proved we had nearly bought the house and were still looking."
All this was 18 months ago and

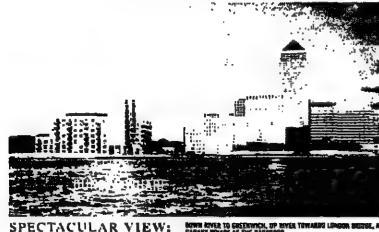
still the family is looking for a detached house in the £250,000 price range in one of the right roads. "The fees for the private school were £1,000 a term. We thought we might as well put that into the mortgage," she said.

She says at least one third of her friends have moved house to be in the right school catchment area. If the publication of more league tables further increases competition, parents will not just be registering their children with schools at birth; they will also be registering

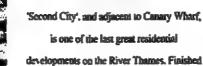
with estate agents.

■ Peter Wilde, Compass Relocation Peterborough, 01780-470073; David Ellerington, Compass education specialist, 01751-417641; Knight Frank, Oxford, 01865-790077; Savills, Ban-bury, 01295-263585; John D Wood, Oxford, 01865-311522; Cluttons, Oxford, 01865-793900; Hamptons, Mairienhead, 01628-22181

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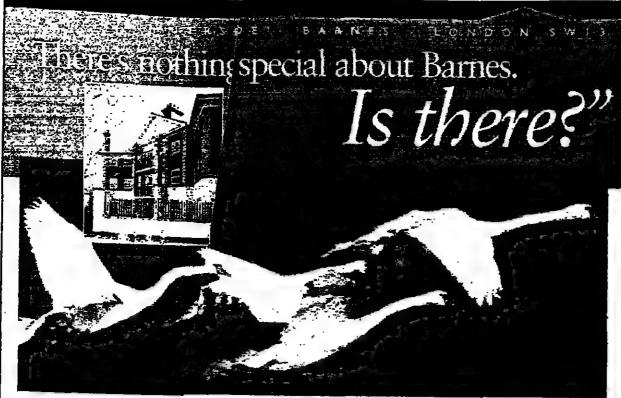
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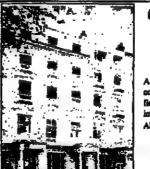
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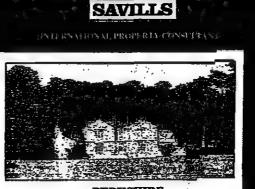
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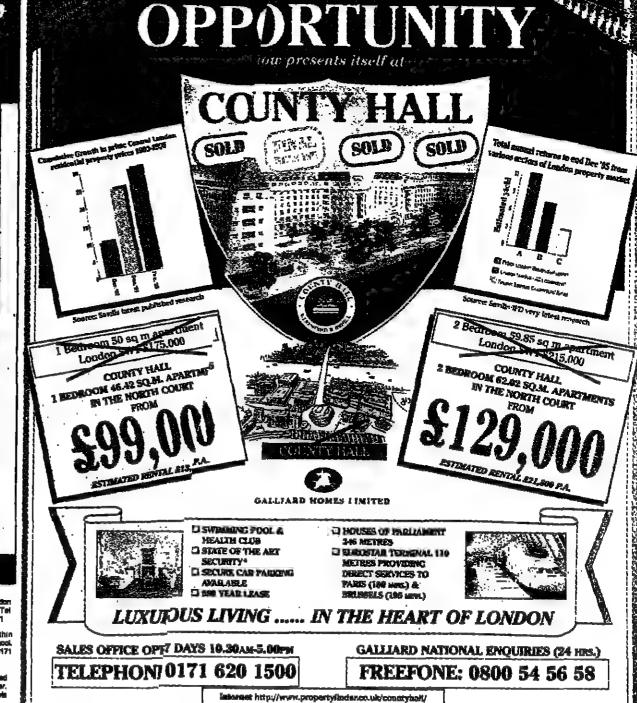
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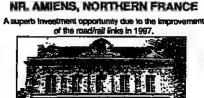
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For Colour Brochure. Tel: 0181 749 9118 Fast: 0181 743 5394 another window, Or so the story goes. It is a story Sherry Turkle tells several times over, complete with the cybersex and cyber-rape, gender swapping and multiple identities which are the most often heard parts of net folklore. But this is much more than just another frothy book about life online. Turkle, a psychoanalyst and social scientist, has been charting our evolving relationships with the new machines since she arrived at the MIT media lab 20 years ago. Here, she builds on her earlier work, which focussed on how children, in particular,

made sense of machines which

Towards a culture of simulation

Jon Turney on a work hich charts the post-modernist's evolving relationship with the newest madines

seemed to them alive. She assesses what has happened in the dozen years since her first notable book on computers, The Second Self.

Her answer has three parts. First, she describes the shift in the way we use computers, or in operating systems. That shift is from the flashing cursor waiting for you to type a command which is the personal computer's welcome in MS-DOS, to the pretend desktop of the Apple Macintosh or its poor imitation, a PC running Windows.

But for Turkle, the switch is about much more than user-friendliness. If you know DOS you can, to some extent, get inside the computer. The commands reach further into the machine. The more you know about programming, the more power you have over the com-

pute With icons and windows, this wer is gone. The actual mach is totally disguised. It is, for us of us, easier to use. But we no long worry about what is hap-peninghind the screen.

Thishift is part of a larger changenrkie believes, from what she call culture of calculation to one of gulation. The first is a modern way of doing things, which is people who want to analyse city what is going on, who dems a detailed understanding of unlying levels before they are comfable with a machine. The seconnaturally, is postmodernist, sulg those who are con-tent to wo with the computer-in-disguise, the just the surface, as long as it lies them to do what they want. kle, an unusual denFrench philosophy, and is making a strong analogy when she sees such strains of postmodern thought reflected in people's recent experience of computers. Anyone can

LIFE ON THE SCREEN: IDENTITY IN THE AGE OF THE INTERNET by Sherry Turkle Weidenfeld and Nicolson £18.99.

347 pages

relate to Jacques Derrida, apparently, after running hypertext software on their Mac. Her second shift is in the impact computers have made on ideas of life and intelligence. This is more familiar, as she describes develop-

izen of MIT, knows her recent ments in computer-mediated therapy and programmes which simulate aspects of living systems -so-called A-life. As in her earlier book, her most informative respondents are often children, contemplating the fate of the organisms in a game of SimLife when the computer is switched off, or programming robots which they sometimes think have minds of their own.

Finally, she picks up the shift so many are starting to experience not finding ways of relating to computers, but new ways of relating to other people through computers. This is not so much the world of the millions now on the net to send and receive e-mail or explore the world-wide web, but the minority who play the multi-user games

tronic environments, wing on a keyboard becomes a vicle for interaction with other Pers, all of whom have assume virtual identities. Like the Mac Sen, the characters conceal their thors: the muscular dragon-slayenay be invoked by the fingers of seven stone weakling.

Turkle has a clear fix on at is really new in these miple, screen-mediated identities, hich make some players fee hey express parts of their personties more fully in the games thathey ever do in RL. There are precents for many elements of these vital selves, from gender-swapping As you Like It to the fantasy worker the romantic novel. But she as portray a world which is me involving, more powerful, for my users than anything they have experienced before. It does offer participation in new kinds of communities, though stretching the sense of that word in new ways.

These opportunities, and their wider cultural impact, are still evolving, and Turkle is careful not to suggest there is any firm couclusion about what they will mean to us. It is clear they are neither a pointless diversion nor a chance to lose your grip on reality. Some return from their virtual life enriched by experiencing different selves which they can use to strengthen aspects of their identity. Some simply confirm their dissatis faction with the way they are outside the game. One is left feeling that it would be as well to have a therapist on hand, preferably Torkle, before venturing into the MUD. Otherwise, as with other aspects of the information superhighway, when it comes to virtual identities the psychologically rich are likely to get richer, the poor to

Honey, I shunk the house

Michael Thompson-Noel Imes in on a domestic conundrum

ccording to cosmologists, black holes emit such gigantic quantities of particles in such random permutations that if we monitored enough black holes for long enough, we would see all sorts of things fly out: David Hockney's swimming pool. 102 dalmatians, William Shakespeare. He would not be our William Shakespeare, though he would be identical to ours even sub-atomically.

I buy all that. What flabbergasts me is the thought that a facsimile of Not At Home will emerge, some day, from some black hole. What makes it flabbergasting is that the version that has popped out here is quite beyond belief.

An immensely strange book. Peculiar in every particle. Unintentionally funny to the zillionth degree. Subtitled 1790 Suppression of Domesticity in Modern Art and Architecture, it indicates the depths of derangement to which those who write about the history of art, design and aesthetics can plunge when they really try. In his introduction, editor Christopher Reed states that the idea of domesticity - separation from the workplace, pri-

NOT AT HOME edited by Chirstopher Reed Thames and Hudson £19.95, 304

Pages

vacy, comfort, focus on the family - was invented as recently as the early 1800s. being a product of the confluence of capitalist economics. technological breakthroughs and Enlightenment notions of individuality.

However, for many a long year, says Reed, avant-garde thinking, particularly in architecture but also in painting and interior design, has been the enemy of domesticity and

An early and influential figare in this was Viennese architect Adolf Loos, who in a 1908 manifesto equated ornament with crime. Loos maintained that the tendency to decorate the home was akin to graffit and tattooing, and that all these things were degenerate, unlike forward-looking mod-

ernisio. According to Reed, the antidomestic tenor of arant-garde architectural theory is nowhere more evident than in the career of modernism's most influential architect. Le Corbusier, whose writings were as important as his buildings.

Le Corbusier's essays made him the pre-eminent early spokesman for modernist design, and there was no doubting where he stood. He inveighed against the "sentimental hysteria" surrounding the "cult of the house", and declared his determination to create a "machine for living m". His heroes were engineers bealthy and virile, active and useful" - as well as big businessmen, bankers and

Le Corbusier argued that



old-fashioned houses produced ruined the health and morale of their male inhabitants. In their homes, "everything seems to contradict their real existence - rooms too small, a conglomeration of useless and

many shams...Our industrial friends seem sheepish and shrivelled. like tigers in a

However, today, after more than 100 years of dispute, the steel-and-glass aesthetic of cultural prominence" ugh Loos. Le Corbusier and others. it is too early to tell withe disparate objects, and a sicken-ing spirit reigning over so of the home as a haven of hold for the arts or for sty.

privacy and as an asion of individual or family intity, is probably losings in-

"The domestic," claineed, "is returning to a post of

His book, he says, is "dedicated to its readers in the hope that it will occasion moments of self-consciousness, creativity and pleasure in our inevitably constant fashioning of home

Fair enough. Yet from its coherent introduction, Not At

pifying assemblage of useless erudition and hot-house prose such as you would never, in this galaxy, expect to find

Not At Home contains 17 long essays. One of them, by Joyce Henri Robinson, a specialist in late 19th century French art, is entitled "Hi Honey, I'm Home': Weary (Neurasthenic) Businessmen and the Formulation of a Serenely Modern Ass-

But the essay richest in muddy profundity is the one by Kenneth E. Silver, associate ssor of fine arts at New York university, called "Master Bedrooms, Master Narratives: Home, Homosexuality and Post-War Art". I have read this several times and still have only the dimmest gifmmering of what it is about.

Part of Silver's essay is given. to a discussion of Robert Rauschenberg's 1955 painting Bed. In 1955, abstract expressionism was at its zenith, and the appearance of Pop art was still seven years in the future. "Bed", writes Prof Silver, "was clearly designed to be provocative, from its juxtanositions of raw and cooked - wild paint splatters vs methodical, self-contained, Albers-like concentric squares; folkloric quilt vs *count-parde* abstraction — to the ontological uncertainty it makes palpable: is this a painting as bed or bed as painting? In which direction, it seems to ask, have we moved: from the

Get it? After many readings, I think I do. Yet there are numerous assertions in "Master Bedrooms, Master Narratives..." that are far more challenging than that, as indeed there are throughout this beautifully pixilated book, in which sex looms surprisingly

studio to the home or vice

large.
The reason for all the sex, saya Reed, is that it is primarily in the home "that we are constructed as sexual and gendered beings".

It may be weird, but Not At

Home will not get the better of me. For several weeks I have been cerrying it from room to room of what - I now see - is my hideously kitschy, pre-modernist flat. It has vulgarly bright wallpapers, fitted carpets, mass-produced ornaments, bourgeois furniture. spotlights, uplights, predictable artworks. I have a porcelain dalmatian on a little table in the sitting room, for God's sake, the horror of which is matched by the porcelain siamese on the little table on the other side of the fire-

For those with eyes to see, Not At Home is probably stuffed with wisdom. Yet what an astonishing thing: not only has it popped into existence once, but it will do so again. From out of a black hole, perhaps billions of years hence, will fly a 304-page book, claim-ing to have been printed in "Slovenia", on the 98th page of which commences a 15-page essay by Joyce Henri Robinson" entitled "Hi Honey, I'm

· Rereadigs/J.D.F. Jones On death and

other ourneys

hese days, Rudyard Kipling's Kim is usually found in th children's section of our bookshops (as are Treas Island and Prester John, which suffer from a similar relegation). This is absurd. Kim is one of the most profound and original, mature and triumphant, novels of this century. It must be reread to establish for all time its place as a great classic for

PROWN-UPS. The book occupied Kipling for seven years, and in his memoirs he modestly claimed that "there was a good deal of beauty in it, and not a little wisdom...." That sums up Kim. The beauty is to do with the India it describes in loving detail, which is why this "imperialist" book has always had a host of Indian admirers. The wisdom reaches deeper into the meaning of this apparently artless, picaresque tale of the adventures of a young Irish boy called Kimbail O'Hara and an elderly 'Fibetan

It is the tale of not one but two quests, one young, one old. They relate to the two most important rites de passage of all our lives - the period when a child becomes a man, and the period when an adult confronts his death. The genius of the book is to

show how these two apparently separate Journeys in a vividly, ecstatically described India are mextricably related and intertwined. They therefore become the same quest – the joint quest that all of us must make in the course of our lives and they realise themselves in the language of myth. The reason they share the journey is because of a mutual love between the boy and the old man; they teach each other, they need each other.

Kim, the 13-year-old boy, is introduced as a wondrous mingling of Irish and Indian, white and brown, and then, straightaway, is inspired by the Lama's reveletion of his quest/journey.

The boy realises that to match the old man he should have his own totem to seek. symbolism and its inspiration. The only totem he can think of comes from his only legacy from his soldier father image of a great red bull on a green field. The Lama validates the boy's idea and postpones his own search to wait for Kim to catch up with him, when they will make the journey together, starting out on the

Great Trunk Road Kim is the first to find his totem, when he meets up with his father's old regiment, but his Indian-ness is saved thanks to the love of the Lama and the generosity of the Indian society around him, which is crystallised in two characters drawn deliberately by Kipling from extreme Indian stereotypes - the Pathan horse dealer Mahbub Ali, and the fat

Bengali intellectual Hurre Babu. Between them they keep a fatherly eye on Kim's youth and schooling while he prepares for his initiation as a man, his career as participant in the Great Game of espionage - and his resumption of the joint quest with the Lama.

Far too much attention is usually paid to the (admittedly spellbinding) detail of Kim's recruitment as a junior agent in the Great Game by Colonel reighton and his associates detail which can distract ttention from the deeper eaning of Kim's iourney to e Himalayas. He rejoins the d man and travels from the

ins to the High Hills, where

physidand dramatic. He outwithe Russians but has to retri in danger and distresat this stage of his Kim en nters two older women he Maharanee and the Work of Shamlegh; one mothers in, the other kisses

him.
This day is taken at a prodigiouste by Kipling as he moves youd the realm of the advente into a revelation of his deer meaning. The Lama has lised, through his adventures ith Kim, that he must retrefrom the high mountains i make for the Plains; there a symbol in this, while, litionally and literally, Kinas to carry him. At this pointth Kim and the Lama, we are understand. are close to oth, and also within sight their quests' ends: one migsay that they have both gornto the

Underworld.

Kipling tells with a desperate, necary speed - a dozen pages toll it off. The boy is saved bye Maharance, who lays him. eper than sleep", in the di of "Mother Earth". The olden, after fasting for two ds - a sort of embracing of dei - in (apparently) dybis reminded of the boy and class to return from deatlut of pity and love for the his and love for the t He thereby finds his n totem, his River of the Aw, just as Kim has discovered Red Bull, has made his ssage, and is initiate.

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A tragic hero of he scientific sphere

eroes create themselves; celebrities are created by the . media. In a media age it is hard to tell which is which. The first half of the 20th century was a time of spectacular development in science, and the leaders of that process were turned into stars by newspaper, film and radio. They were portrayed as Titans. geniuses, lovable zanies, beings from a different planet called The Future.

Linus Pauling was one such. He attained celebrity early in his scientific career by strikingly imaginative work in chemistry, proposing important theories about the bonds which hold atoms together in molecules. His theories have been superseded, which is often the way in science; but amounts of vitamins, princi-

by then he had become a Nobel prize winner, showered with honorary doctorates and fellowships of scientific academies around the world. From this lofty platform Pauling launched himself into two very contrasting careers.

One was as a courageous political campaigner for nuclear disarmament and peace, and against political witch-huntery in the US. For his peace work Pauling won the rare honour of a second

The other career was as a champion of dubious claims about the efficacy of huge

against disease. Apart from the air of quackery that clung to this, it brought into relief an unhappy trick Pauling had of sailing close to the wind over questions of authorship and attribution, a realous matter in science, whose practitioners are keen to get the credit for what they do, not just for pride but because research grant, prizes, promotions and opportunities turn on it. Earlier in his career Pauling had sometimes provoked colleagues by claiming more than his due and reaping the benefit. In his late vitamin campaign matters were worse: he suppressed

research in his own instiwhich contradicted his viand dismissed the resear who arrived at them. Even so summary a ske shows that Pauling is

> POLITICS by Ted Goertzel and Ben Goertzel

extraordinary figure. As a lade fools of them in Congresspecimen of high gifts, contra-pual hearings, contributing dictions, stubbornness, creativity and wrong headedness he is

the Olympian stature con-ferred on its practitioners by science earlier this century, he is paradigmatic - as he is in showing how such influence can be used for better and worse. And as a comment on LINUS PAULING: A | the oppressive, obsessive, ugly LIFE IN SCIENCE AND episode of anti-Communist zealotry in the US after the sec-ond world war, his story is an illumination - not least

ecause when the Republican HarperCollins £18.99, 300 pages light took him on, they found

ity and wrong headedness he is lise, hard to beat. As an example of fed and Ben Goertzel -

father and son, sociologist and scientist respectively - set out to recount this multiple biography and to explain the man. Their book in fact has four authors, because Ted Goer-tzel's parents jointly began it when Pauling, after winning his second Nobel Prize, was at the height of his fame. They gave up when he became obsessed with vitamin C and persecuted colleagues who dis-

The committee authorship shows; this is a patched, cluttered, inelegant book, in which plodding biography is interleaved with over-condensed explanations of scientific ideas.

They miss many opportunities: Pauling's aptness for getting into trouble might have been prefigured in the early boyhood episode of his falling into a backyard privy; and the authors pass without comment a reminiscence by a cousin that the young Pauling was "more normal and average than most boys". But for such things a sense

of humour is required, and the authors' interests lie elsewhere The best thing in the book is its account of Pauling's brave resistance to McCarthyism. It also whets the reader's appetite to know more about the history of chemistry,

molecular biology is medicine in the 20th entury. because Pauling's ativity contributed to all the And although science h since moved on, it is fasciting to see how the beauty apower of the scientific implation expressed itself in hispik for he was indeed a ative thinker of a high order F. Scott Fitzgeraldaid: write you a tragedy." Iling and his wife for many ars consumed 10 grams of voin C a day - 200 times tius recommended daily allowe - as a specific against alisease but especially coldend cancer. Pauling called his is

A.C. Graylig

"allergies"; cancer killed in

both.

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t about the time he wrote *The Book of* Laughter and Forgetting in 1980. Milan Kundera was in a process which he has described as crossing the border to a country where the language of the country left behind sounds "as meaningless as the twittering of birds." It is a process which many expatriate writers since Nabokov have experienced. Joseph Brodsky actually turned himself into an American poet, without Nabokov's advantage of a Cambridge education. Now Kundera has written his first povel in French, and his first 'appears" because we have no

means of knowing which translation - the mental one from Czech into Kundera's French, or the physical one from Kundera's French into English - has gone wrong. This is something of a handicap to the lightness of the book, like a shortage of egg whites in a soufflé; still there is a good deal of vintage Kundera to enjoy. Four brief stories entwine

and overlap to explore the notion of slowness. The writer, apparently Kundera himself. goes to stay in a chateau hotel. and contemplates the account of a Marquis and his mistress who dallied hereabouts in the 18th century. Into this story he introduces the account of a young intellectual. Vintcent: a Czech professor, newly freed from a job as a construction worker; and a telly-don called Berck, who is based all too recognisably on certain French

Indeed, self-congratulatory SLOWNESS by Milan Kundera

Faber & Faber £14.99, 144 pages

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intellectuals, enjoying a conference at the hotal, make a welcome reappearance from The Book of Laughter and capriciousness. Where in that book Markets tried to imagine her husband headless during an orgy, here Vinteent is unable to have sex with Julie, the girl he has desired violently; but goes though all the attendum movements because people are watching. One of the watchers is the humiliated Czech professor, who, overcome by bogus sentiment, has forgotten to deliver his lecture on an insect found only in Prague. He strips off for a consolation swim the better to give his impressive muscles an outing, and discovers what he takes to be an orgy gathering pace. Another woman, spurned by Berck, attempts suicide in the pool, watched curiously by her lover, a cameraman. The stolid Czech jumps in to save her, and receives a punch in the face for his troubles. All very

Kundera's cruel ironies on intellectual life and professional jealousy, his mockery of expatriate disappointments, his pitiless observation of the real - and usually base - aims of fine words, his keen interest in the farcical nature of sex, his playful reorganisation of the unities of novel writing, are all present in abundance. But there is an almost palpable sense of striving for a lightness of touch, a striving which is hindered by the wooden translation. And the ideas of slowness opposed to rapidity, and discretion opposed to exhibitionism, seem no more than an existential gloss applied rather lightly, mere decoration compared with the sublime notion, inscribed on every dissident's heart, that the struggle of man against power is the struggle of

Stoppardian: farce mixed in

with intellectual cynicism.

memory against oblivion. in the end the wonderful dexterity of Kundera's work is not enough; the reason is that there are no remotely heroic characters whose fate we can enjoy. In this sense it may be true that Kundera is finding life on the other side of the border difficult. But then, since 1948, Kundera's life has been a succession of intellectual border crossings.

Justin Cartwright

BOOKS

NEW AUTHORS

Bragg is still poor on moti-PUBLISH YOUR WORK ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED FORMER RESERVED FOR THE PLANT OF THE PARTY OF T vation - the heroine, Princess Bega, remains a curiously elusive character - but he is excellent on politics and soci-AUTHORITY CONTRACTOR SEATON TO THE SEATON TO ety. His descriptions of the MINERYA PRESS truly epic feasts, the barbaric

read John Keane's Reflections on Violence over the Easter weekend, sandwiched between the two instalments of Channel Four's adaptation of Gulliver's Travels. The interplay was uncanny, almost eerie..

political theorist filled with passion to promote a better world, charts in gruesome detail the "long century of violence" behind us. The horror is as sickening yesterday as half a century ago. We flit from Hitler to mass executions of Bosnian Moslems ("the the gulags to first-hand accounts of the slaughter of civilians like animals in Rwanda "The place was red. Blood was flowing like water. I could see babies suckling the breasts of

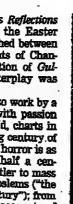
each other with gay abandon. And the wise Houyhnhams, a race of just, truthful and peace-loving horses, who regard with disgust the yahoos, and consign Gulliver to their midst for all his refinement as an English doctor,

Keane does not mention Gulliver.

But he cites Swift's still more pregnant satire, his Modest Proposal for Preventing the Children of Poor People in ireland from being a Burden to their Purents or Country. The "modest proposal" derives from the narrator's discovery from "a very knowing American" that "a young healthy child well nursed is at a year old a most delicious, nourishing

posal, as a teenager, it was fascinating but fantastic. Re-reading it after two days of Keane and Gulliver, it seemed a plausible economic development prospectus for a third-world Bokassa or Idi Amin. Nor. indeed. does violence on such a scale require much by way of physical aggression. A century after Swift, during the Irish famine, a senior British official advised the cabinet simply to leave the wretches to "the operation of natural causes" – an equally modest

heroic resistance to oppression, much of it successful. There are the



Keane's tract, a virtuoso work by a Jews of the late 20th century"); from

their dead mothers...") Then came Swift's biting satire. The tiny Lilliputians waging their continuous war between the Big-enders and the Little-enders. The intellectual Laputans extracting sunlight out of cucumbers while bombing animal savagery of the human

REFLECTIONS ON VIOLENCE by John Keane Verso £39.95 200 pages

and wholesome food, whether stewed, rossted, baked, or boiled". There is no need to so on. When I first read the *Modest Pro-*

But then there is civil society, civllisation and non-violence. There is west's bills of rights and elaborate egainst arbitrary power. And there are the zones of "civility", living side-by-side with "uncivility" (an archaism resurrected by Keane to denote the violent tendency), yet as generally peaceful as any societies in

This is all deeply bewildering. A strength of Keane's book is that he makes only partial, fitful attempts to

arly in her premiership,

Margaret Thatcher told an

everything and everyone

seemed to be against her. Unlike the

men in her cabinet, or previous

prime ministers, she had no one to

enturing down a dark

alley at night, who

would give more pro-

tection, Melvyn Bragg

or Jilly Cooper? No contest

really; at 757 pages Bragg's lastest novel, Credo, could

deliver an awesome blow, then

beat any adversary into sub-

mission with its comprehen-

sive knowledge of 7th-century

Northumbria, with special ref-

cal music is equally likely to

When reviewing personality

novels it is hard not to go for

the man rather than the work.

Here there is no problem: with

his 17th work of fiction Bragg

has at last come up with a

very impressive piece of cre-

ative writing. He takes a

familiar story, a young girl

forced to choose between serv-

ing God or Mammon (in the

form of heroic Prince Padric),

but sets it in one of the least

known but most exhibitrating

periods in British history -

the nasty, brutish and none-too-short Dark Ages.

tortures and the lust for battle

lead to cries for mercy.

makes me laugh.".

andearing story. Sometimes



Acts of everyday violence: road rage breaks out on the streets of New York

Dangerous forces unleashed

Violence is everywhere, from families to nations to superpower rivalries, writes Andrew Adonis

rationalise. The very organisation of his Reflections – a succession of rapid-fire gobbets on different aspects of civil war", exhibited by perpetual low-level violence in urban districts rationalise. The very organisation of trary, western democracies are account of scientific progress misses loosely organised into chapters sums up the essential argument.

Violence is everywhere, from families to nations to inter-continental superpower rivalries. In a brilliant passage. Keane even rejects the notion of "civil war" as commonly understood in terms of finite conflicts within previously integral political communities. On the con-

such as Sölingen, Tower Hamlets, Los Angeles and Marseille, which "disturbingly parallels" the largescale conflicts to be found elsewhere. Every carriage on a city's underground...can become a miniature

This is not an easy read. The prose is dense and often impenetrable. Of Ernest Gellner: "His neo-Popperian

the elective affinity between postfoundationalist perspectives in phiattitude of democratic scepticism and the horizontal diversity of forms of life that are characteristic institutional features of any civil society". Swift would have sent Gullive around the world again in search of modern social science.

Yet beneath the verbiage lies a deeply humane attempt to grapple with one of the greatest of human

predicaments - how to curb natural impulses to violence, uncivility and destruction. (Keane agonises long but no matter). He does not hesitate to address the critical question: how much violence is needed to contain

There is no simple formula. In some circumstances the pacifists will be right. In other cases, where violence serves "to reduce or eradicate violence", or "serves as a means of the creation or strangthening of a

pluralistic nonviolent civil society secured by publicly accountable political-legal institutions", it may אר עונם זעל בפטונסטוע או the forces unleashed by any violence can never be accurately predicted.

It is a question of judgment in particular circumstances - a depressing but sane conclusion. Do not, of course, ask where the necessary wisdom is to come from. Just recall that after his return home Gulliver spent four hours a day talking to his horses.

Behind the 'Dear Bill' image

Malcolm Rutherford on an essential addition to the Thatcher bibliography

turn to except her husband, Denis. cardinal rule: "never give interviews, never talk to the press". The Then he puts his arm round my shoulder and says 'you' sound just like Harold Wilson', and that always reason was that if you gave one interview, you would be asked for more and, even more important, The story is not told in this book. ibly because daughter Carol has there was a strong chance that the reptiles would misreport you.

Lord Deedes of the Daily Telerelied heavily on her father as a

source and he was too modest, or shy, to tell her directly of how he graph - the "Dear Bill" of the famous Private Eye letters helped to keep the show on the mad: especially at the start. Nevertheless, persuaded him to relent and talk to Carol. And, as Denis admits, it was the "Dear Bill" letters which Denis has revealed enough from below the parapet to make the book an essential addition to the Thatcher contributed to the making of a consort, at least in the public image. hibliography. Gin-swilling, golf-playing, mad about rugby and thoroughly reactionary It was remarkable to get him to talk at all. Throughout the Downing

Street years, Denis Thatcher had a on practically every subject under the sun, he emerged as a lovable figure, a force for good far more than

> This image is not quite true. Thatcher has done her homework. including research in New Zealand where the minor, but useful, Thatcher fortune began through applying arsenic to sheep dip at the

end of the 19th century.

Denis (spelt Dennis in his birth certificate in Lewisham in 1915) always had an eye for a balance sheet. When Margaret was a relatively unknown cabinet minister and the Rolls-Royce crisis blew up in the early 1970s, he had read the accounts BELOW THE PARAPET: THE BIOGRAPHY OF DENIS THATCHER

by Carol Thatcher HarperCollins £16.99, 303 pages

for the last six years and concluded that the company was basically bust. The cabinet was much impressed by Margaret's knowledge of corporate fiance, but said Denis modestly: "Don't ever do that to me again! Supposing I'd been wrong?"

On some matters he was a liberal. He was opposed to capital punishment while Margaret was in favour.

Once, however, the tables were turned. In a moment of relaxation Denis told the annual dinner of the London Society of Rugby Football Union Referees in 1979: "If the soccer players can go and play in Russia and our table tennis team can go and play in China, as sure as hell we can play our game in South Africa." He forgot that reptiles were present in the form of rugby correspondents, and it was left to Margaret (and the

The book has a sting in the tail. Higher wisdom in the Tory Party always had it that when the time came for Margaret to go, Denis alone

Queen) to pick up the Common-

could tell her. According to this account, Denis did his stuff somewhere around Christmas 1988 on the perfectly reasonable ground that "ten years were enough". He thought he had succeeded. Then Margaret went off to Lord Whitelaw one of the founts of the higher wisdom in the first place. Whitelaw said: "You can't do that, there'll be blood on the walls when choosing your successor. It will split the party." So Margaret stayed, as Denis had always suspected she wanted to

Denis was right and Whitelaw was wrong. It is quite striking that Whitelaw is not listed in the book as one of his favourite golfing partners. But the last word is with Lord Deedes. "It can be argued", he told Carol, "that Denis would have had a pretty dull life without the amazing coincidence of being married to the first woman prime minister of Britain."

GOOD BOOK

GUIDE

Fiction/Antony Thorncroft

Droit de seigneur through the ages

erence to the Council of are utterly convincing because they are placed in a very pre-cise historic context, by the Cooper's Appassionata, in comparison, weighs in at a struggle between the receding modest 623 pages, although its Celts and the triumphant ineffably silly story of skul-duggery in the world of classi-Anglo-Saxons, the Celtic Church and the Roman. Anyone needing to recap on the arguments for the dating of Easter should reach for Bragg.

Of course it is too long. The momentum never quite recaptures the opening chapters set in the great hall of Cathal, where honour demands Bega be buried alive if she objects to her father's choice of husband. But for a surprising number of pages Bragg manages to conjure up some of the epic grandeur of a Tolkein or a T.H. White: the Arthurian influence is perva-

When Padric, the Celtic prince dedicated to the preservation of his tribal kingdom (based around Bragg's native Carlisle) fights to the death, together with his two brothers, against a Northumbrian raiding party, we are back to the best of the Boys' Own Paper.

CREDO by Melvyn Bragg Sceptre £16.99. 757 pages

APPASSIONATA by Jilly Cooper Bantam £16.99, 623 pages

A WOMAN'S PLACE by Edwina Currie Hodder & Stoughton £16.99, 564 pages

Bragg has his prosaic lapses; I doubt if people "intuited" in this fearsome era, and I am slightly unhappy about an irish coinage this early - but taking his inspiration from St Bega's church in the Lake District, where he went for bike rides in his youth, he has brought to terrible life the most deadly period of British history.

In contrast Jilly Cooper is just plain irritating. Seven pages of acknowledgments suggests she has done her research into the work and play of an orchestra, but her

and so flippantly written that it is hard to believe a word. Brass players traditionally like a drink: so the brass section of the Rutminster Symphony Orchestra, known as

the Celtic Mafia, are irredeemable brutish louts. Conductors are imperious beings, so the arch villain Roberto Rannaldini automatically exercises droit de seigneur over the more comely members of the band. Orchestras feel liberated on overseas tours: so this one ends up bursting out of a iacuzzi.

Jilly Cooper just cannot resist a strained pun or a himp double-entendre: in the fanciful sex scenes (copulating on a glockenspiel suggests a really desperate failure of imagination), the protagonists are too concerned to perfect their post-coital quips than to blend

with their partners.
But what really kills the book is the fact that all the characters are as insufferable as they are unlikely, and the plot is lifted from an early Angela Brazil novel: will new girl (pianist turned maestro Abigail) win round the naughty Lower Third (her sexobsessed, irresponsible, orchestra) who tease her to death?

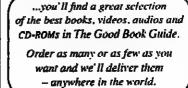
correct bogeys - the Arts Council mandarins who make the performance of more works by lesbian composers the condition of a grant, the malevolent influence of spon-sors – but there is a hollowness to it all, a heaviness of touch that is insulting to the dedicated, overworked, introspective musicians who compose most orchestras. And, for all the name dropping, Cooper

manages to mis-spell Pissarro. It is a relief to turn to the straightforward, almost gentlemanly, world of politics as observed through the wonderfully partial eyes of Edwina Currie. A Woman's Place may be short on plot - this second adventure of the curiously Currie-like junior health minister Elaine Stalker is basically identical to the MP's first political fandango, A Parliamentary Affair - but she is excellent on the inside work-

Any student of politics could hardly do better than use this as a source book, although I do not quite know what to make of lines such as: "through her affair with Roger Dickson (the new PM) Elaine had become familiar with the ministerial area at the back of the Speaker's Chair".

ings of parliament.

If you love books... Jilly Cooper might tilt at the



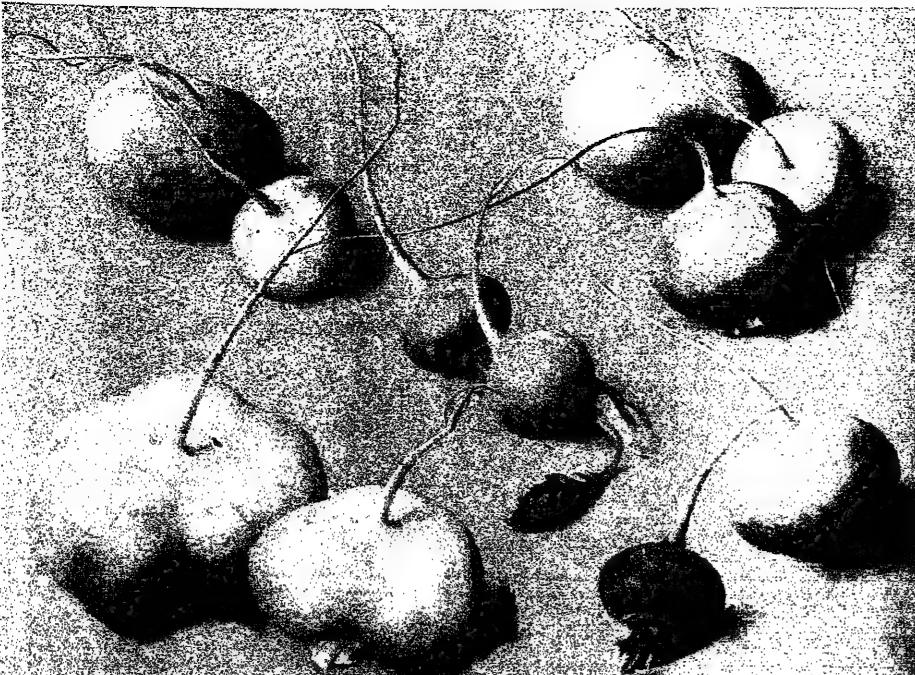
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Language of still life lives on

more so than in the time of so great a popular success as the current Cézanne retrospective, to see a public gallery such as the Tate only in terms of its temporary exhibitions. But these are but the icing on the cake. The essential gallery rests on its collections, and although it is impossible to show more than a fraction of what it holds, the Tate has set up satellites in Liverpool and Saint Ives, and continues its BP sponsored programme of rehanging the regular displays. The scope thus revealed within the collections is

prise and interest at each new visit. One special feature developed within this general exercise has been a series of study displays upon a given theme, some admittedly more successful than others. Now, with Still But Not Silent, it is the turn of the still life; some 30 paintings and a few sculptures, British and foreign, from the 17th century

here was the usual sprin-kling of Rolls-Royces and

Hotel de Paris. The spring sunshine

did not stop the Italian women in very high beels walking in their

furs arm in arm with their smaller

husbands in dark glasses around

the camembers, the round flower bed with its fountain and paims in

On the steps of the Monte-Carlo

casino, supercilious doormen

shooed away improperly dressed

tourists. On the terraces overlook-

ing the sea, a small crowd of Japa-

nese visitors including a couple of Buddhist monks had gathered

around a statue of two over-sized doll-like figures. They giggled, took snaps, and bent down to read the

sign under the two huge figures

with their blown out paunches and

fat buttocks: Adam and Eve by

The works of the Colombian

sculptor and painter, described by some as Latin America's best

known contemporary artist, appear

to have found a natural home in the

tiny Mediterranean principality.

There is certainly an affinity

between Botero's surrealist world of obesity and grossly exaggerated

forms and shapes and the at times surrealist atmosphere of Monaco.

Somerset Maugham's famous wise crack - "a sunny place for shady people" - this postage stamp city

state on the Riviera maintains an eccentric character of its own. Rich

Italian tax evaders have largely replaced the English milords and

Russian aristocrats. Formula 1 rac-

ing drivers and overpaid tennis

stars have made it their home.

For all its efforts to shake-off

Fernando Botero.

the middle of the Place du Casino.

red Italian open top sports

cars parked casually by the

Still life has been part of the currency of art since art began, albeit as a symbolic, narrative or decorative adjunct in the first instance. Though, from the late Renaissance on, particularly in 16th- and 17thcentury Spain and Holland, it was then developed as a distinct discipline and genre, it has clearly retained much of that old symbolic potency, if increasingly after an oblique and unspoken fashion.

A vanitas of 1696 by Edward Collier, an expatriate Dutchman who worked in England in later Stuart its books and music, may be clear enough in the message it bears as to the evident transience of human pleasures. "What I was is passed by,/ What I am away doth file..." runs the epigraph on the frontis-piece of Wither's Emblemes, the book shown. But, 230-odd years on, does the small late-cubist composi-tion by Juan Gris (1924), with its

fruit in a bowl and its violin, carry that same, if now implicit message? The fruit will still rot, the music vanish on the air.

For all our latterday knowingness and scepticism, we live still in a world stiff with sign and portent, if only the imagination stays free enough to read them. And it is through the still life that the artist invests the everyday with the magic of the particular and the remarkable. The point and the mystery of it is that such investment need not be conscious - for it is a truth of all true art that the artist intuitively puts into the work rather more than

Some artists do, of course, make conscious play with meaning and image. Ian Hamilton Finlay carves a machine-gun in elegant relief (1977), with the ironical inscription. Lyre, beneath. Tim Head (1987) derives an abstracted image from schematic drawings of cuts of meat, sectioned brains and chromosoms diagrams, all rather uncomfortable

in its prescient topicality. J.G.S. and bottle of wine (1931) quite at Herbert (c.1862), steeped in mid-Victorian piety, sets fading petals and decaying moss of a pre-Raphaelite exactitude against a bright vision of the celestial city.

But even they must leave the reading and experience of their work open and ambiguous to some degree. With Eliot Rodgkin (1971), all we get are a few turnips, pink and white with long curly roots against a dull ochre ground. Yet how beautiful they are, and strange, and suddenly remarkable. David Bomberg at his lowest abb, rejected as a war artist and his work self with a bunch of lilies (1943), lush in their dark, rich, expression-

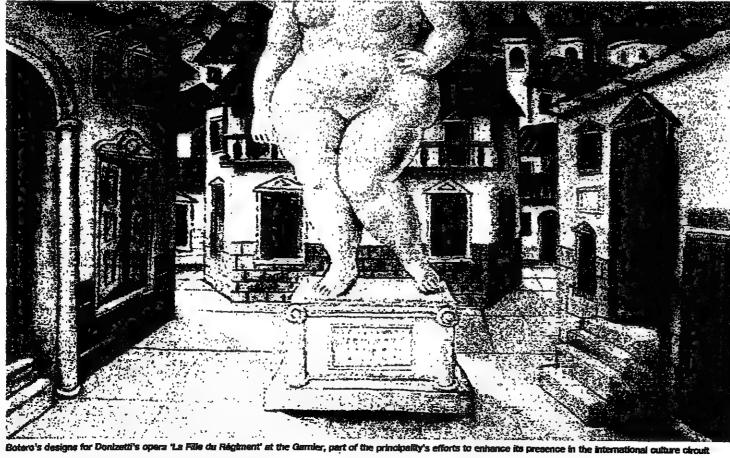
ist paint. The Vanitas, Fruits of the Earth, Flowers, Memorabilia, the Artist's Studio: so runs the sequence of loose categories within the show. But in truth all are the same. We take them one by one and find

one with William Ferguson's hung game (1684), Cedric Morris's sunburst of irises (1943) with Edward Middleditch's flowers on a chair with bedsprings (1956), Gertrude Jekyli's black gardening boots by William Nicholson (1920) with Cézanne's unfinished apples (1893), Steven McKenna's metaphysical baskets (1995) with Leonard Appelbee's neo-Romantic King Crab (1938), David Tindle's altar-like table-top (1974) with Morandi's little

white jars (1946). Still life, the modest simulacrum of reality, its essential subject inevithese works, in their several ways, are simply variations upon the vanitas. Still life can be nothing else.

William Packer

Still But Not Silent - still life painting and sculpture from the Tate Gallery collections: Tate Gallery, Millbank SW1, until July 14.



Obesity placed centre stage

Paul Betts finds Botero's exaggerated sculpture at home in Monte-Carlo

It is expensive, spotlessly clean and incredibly safe. It combines the sunny opulence of Beverly Hills with the atmosphere of a turn of the century operetta. It is miniscule (it would fit inside Hyde Park) but everything about it is exaggerated just like Botero's sculptures. The Colombian artist first hit the

streets of Monte-Carlo four years ago when a gallery held an exhibi-tion of his works in the casino gardens. Until a few weeks ago, a hugely fat Botero dog stood guard outside the Café de Paris, Fat peasant women and bloated men, all mini replica of the grand Paris

with fairy lights. The Colombian. whose works have also lined the Champs-Elyseé and New York's Park Avenue, must have chuckled at the ironic humour of his statues blending in so well around the casino and laughed all the way to the bank. His works have fetched

Now he has made it inside the casino itself: not the gaming halls but the charming salle Garnier, a

naked of course, sheltered under the shade of palm trees twinkling ero has designed the sets and costumes for a new production of Donizetti's La Fille du Régiment, the finale of the Monte-Carlo's opera's latest season and part of the principality's efforts to enhance its presence in the international art and culture circuit. The idea is to lure visitors by staging top class artistic events and not simply attract them with motor racing events, tennis matches, gambling, café society galas and what is euphemistically

known as efficient tax management.

Botero must have had fun with this production. His universe of fat people crowded the small stage dominated in the first act by one of his huge nude statues. In the second act, the statue's two gigantic buttocks stared at the audience through an open window. All the characters were heavily stuffed costumes distiguring them into Hump-

ty-Dumpty figures.

The overall impression was of a surrealist children's three dimensional pop-up book. But as the opera unravelled and the initial surprise of the décor wore away, it all became more realist. Those blown out costumes began to look perfectly natural in the world of bel conto with its mighty tenors and

It was also a way of rediscovering an artist who in recent years has tended to repeat himself by overworking a single successful theme. Like other artists, Botero has used an opera production to great effect to refresh his artistic universe. And Monaco could not have offered a

Television/Martin Hoyle

Life as soap scenario

to think that life is merely a sitcom, either because an apparently improbable and near-farcical series like Men Behaving Badly (currently being repeated on BBC1) reveals the uncomfortable roughage of reality beneath the froth; or because a weird blend of comedy and ciné-vérité, soap and sulphur, blurs the distinctions between calculated comedy and realistic reportage. The latter, epitomised by Cardiac Arrest, does not inspire confidence in the medical profession. Last week's episode sparked an measy echo with its gay nedic, found to be HIV posi-tive, prompting letters to the countless patients who had passed through his hands. The series is not as incisive as it was, the humour not as iconoclastic nor the observation as grim. At its best Arrest recalls ITV's The Bill, with its no-nonsense presentation of charmless and sometimes alarming coppers in a job that seems to be 90 per cent frustration. I hope it does not take the easy way into the limbo of mindless entertainment. The conviction of life as sitcom

scenario storyboarded by that great media magnate in the sky received a fillip from Wednesday's Modern Times (BBC2). Shades of both the wonderful Men Behaving Badly and the appalling This Life were raised at this funny, sad and altogether admonitory survey of the splen-deurs et misères of finding a flatmate. Three nice Christian girls prayed before placing their ad, asking themselves what Jesus would have written. Two jolly pagan girls of the Sloane persuasion giggled about blokes ("Wouldn't Craig Maclachian be lovely?" they gurgled of the Australian phone-caller; a triffe optimistically, it turned out) and hung out their "Catch a Man 94" tee-shirts to dry. Three young men with more caution than arithmetical ability wanted a girl to "balance" the household.

The Australian turned out to be on anti-biotics for eyes, lungs and, one suspected, much else. "I'm a bit of misery at the moment," he added superfluously. An Italian put their untidiness to shame, especially in the bathroom. A girl applicant revealed they had been using the washing-machine inaccurately all their lives. Then their "fantastic" choice let them down at the last moment in what sounded like an understandable case of cold feet.

Of the three male questors one never spoke but lolled, blond, in bare feet and shorts, ringing variations on eating, drinking and pick-

ometimes the temptation is ing his toes, sometimes simultaneously. They took polaroids of all their applicants and eventually opted for an aspiring solicitor with most "background" (Cambridge) in common. Questions were asked, in varying degrees of incredulity. about hoovering and tidying.

The three Christian girls' wistful search for a bloke with lots of friends threw up a few oddities, like the young man who had found religion on a train and urged them to come out with it if they found him "weird". He was not deemed suitable. We left them with a girl sharer who, though Christian. played rock music at ear-splitting levels and put up a boyfriend for the odd night when he was apparently too unwell to go home. They seemed rather worried.

tke all soaps, life has its ugly moments; unlike soaps ts mysteries are sometimes never cleared up. Channel 4's Dispatches postulated the theory that WPC Yvonne Fletcher was killed not by a Libyan shooting from the embassy but by a sniper on a nearby building with the possible connivance of both British and American security services. An apparently wild conspiracy theory was backed up by physical evidence, and the assertion that a "major incident" was needed to raise the stakes against Gadaffi. I was not convinced, but an investigation is being urged.

BBC2's more disturbing Rough Justice homed in on the Carl Bridgewater case: the paperboy was shot in 1979 on an isolated farm, seemingly having disturbed robbers. The four convictions depended on the disputed confession of one of them, since dead. The remaining three have always asserted their innocence. The programme unearthed an extraordinary set of circumstances pointing an inquisitive finger at the boy's neighbour who was jailed for shooting a friend shortly afterwards. Personal description and sighting of vehicles, among other factors. indicate his presence, and his friend's, at the site of Carl's murder on the day of the crime. An Ef overpowering set of coincidences. "Fascinating, isn't it? . . . So what?" says the man, now out of jail. He seems to have taken the words out of the mouth of the Home Secretary who, now that the prosecution has expressed concern at the non-dis-closure of evidence, is the only one blocking a new investigation. This probing journalism reaffirms one's faith in television.

The truth eludes moral pretensions

atuity of the month: Lord Reith was as dangerous as Hitler in this country. So squeaked the endemically hysterical Moral Maze, here represented by historian Dr David Starkey in one of his more ludicrous outbursts. Along with journalists, media dons have recently found their own circle of hell in public disrespect. Photogenic Michael Wood, another historian, has acquired a faint but unmistakable trendy Estuary accent, as heard on Looking Forward to the Past This once entertaining cross

between a civilised conversation and an after-dinner party game has sunk into the fashionable doldrums of national self-loathing, with obligatory references to "these benighted shores" and the blighted promise of 1945, never fulfilled - as if the majority of people were not infinitely better off than they were. A bemused audience was chivvied on by the bubbling Paul Boateng, a splendidly lively presenter. But Lord St John of Fawsley sounded determined to impersonate the club bore, which he is too clever and amusing to be allowed to do.

Working History inspires much more confidence, but then this con-tains serious information, not selfadvertising babbling from the groves of academe. A recent edition looked at what we can adduce from bones as regards historical care for the handicapped. Enough for expert archeologists to disagree, it seems; for Charlotte Roberts detected signs of caring while Theya Molleson took a less comforting line. A congenitally deaf child from Roman times had been buried on its stomach as if "they" did not want its spirit to return. We were also reminded that the Anglo-Saxons plunged new-born babies into cold water to ensure that only the hardy would survive. John Slater presents this excellent look at behind the scenes history studies with no frills, no phoney accent. The programme instructs and entertains, not too far removed from the Reithian ideal, despite distant squeals of protest from the

Starkeys of the world. It was not just Easter that made one understand Pilate's hopeless-ness in sorting out objective truth. At a lunch to launch Radio 4's Asia File, an Indian journalist assailed

us with complaints that British programmes for the British public used British reporters. I am unsure what permutations can guarantee finding absolute truth or if such a thing exists. But using indigenous reporters to inform foreign audiences is as good a formula as any. Never mind; the commitment is strong and the stories need telling. Asia's plague of golf courses at first sounds trivial. But with as membership fee of 70,000 US dol-lars and large American enterprises concerned we are talking big money. No wonder senior civil servants are on the committees that give the go-shead for the destruction of forests to make way for fairways. The homeless peasants, their houses and land gone without compensation, recall the enclosures in Tudor England or the Highland Clearances. Asia File is a fine addition to the Application to the Application to the Police of the Police tion to the BBC's generally noble

Starkey's fatuity just had the edge over Clare Rayner breathlessly lamming into Christianity on Today, holding it responsible for war, bloodshed, slavery and probably the England cricket team as well. Even Melvyn Bragg was moved to snap at her woollyminded generalisations.

Daphne Hampson of St Andrew's University has no such excuse for the solipsistic arrogance she displayed in *The Day God Died*, a pre-Easter discussion on the deity chaired by Joan Bakewell. By her own admission, feminist Daphne "couldn't give a damn about what Jesus said about women"; she also knows "perfectly well" there could not have been a resurrection. Ageing iconoclast Don Cupitt defined his faith as acknowledging his own vitality. The only puzzle is why Daph and Don call themselses Christians.

Gordon Clough has died. His urbane, witty and friendly articulateness was always a joy, whether presenting news programmes or chairing Round Britain Quiz. Unde-niably clubhable, he gave welcome signs of impatience at the prolix and the pretentions. I would have loved to hear him with David Star-key. key... or Daph... or Don...

حيكذا من الاعل

Despite Abaddo's attempts to make new music an integral part of Salzburg's Easter festival Andrew Clark finds 'museum' music for the rich and token modernism for the poor

single red rose adorned the bust of Herbert von Karajan at Salzburg's Grosses Festspielhans last weekend, and it spoke volumes. With his death seven years ago, a core of Europe's richest music-lovers lost their idol, and the Easter festival lost its centrepiece. It has never been the same

In the immediate aftermath of his death Karajan's reputation suffered a dip, but the balance is now returning in his favour. Unlike at the summer festival, mention of Karajan's name is not frowned on at Easter. Encouraged by photographic displays in the foyer and his widow's efforts to keep the name alive, the festival's old guard enjoys reminise-ing about the Karajan era. Easter is their annual reunion – a way of keeping the flame alive in less propitious times.

Karajan knew what he was doing. With the help of the Berlin Philharmonic, whose services came courtesy of the German taxpayer, he fashioned the Easter festival in his own image. It had to be a private festival: Karajan wanted to be answerable to no one but himself. This makes life difficult for his successor, Claudio Abbado. Unlike Karajan, Abbado cannot bank on unquestioning loyalty from the pub-lic, so the festival's conservative audience now calls the time. Elsewhere, cushioned by public subsidy, Abbado can programme as much Nono and Zimmermann as he pleases - but when people are paying a princely sum out of their own pockets, they do not want to be confronted with ugly modern

This explains the enormous discrepancy between the way Abbado talks about the Easter festival and what he actually programmes. In an interview in the festival book, Abbado says he aims to educate his audience by making new music an integral part of the festival, "This is the only way ... to keep the festival alive. [It] must not be allowed to degenerate into a kind of museum devoted solely to the past."

This sounds both patronising and naive. The festival's contemporary music series. founded by Abbado and entitled Kontrapunkte (Counterpoints), attracts fewer than 200 from Verdi to the present - and the Berlin Philharmonic's tonal people per concert - mostly musi-cians, students and critics. You should tie in with the operatic cencould hardly expect more, even if you paid people to come. The main festival programme, which brings in the money, continues to be devoted to the classical and romantic era. and there is no cross-fertilisation. The result is a festival of two ghettoes – "museum" music for the rich and token modernism for the poor. Kontrapunkte is a well-meaning venture, but it is irrelevant to Salz-

burg at Easter. Salzburg may not be everyone's favourite destination over the

Unlike Karajan, Abaddo cannot bank on unquestioning loyalty from the public so the festival's conservative audience now calls the tune

Easter holiday weekend, but this year the sun came out, the tourist crowds were good-humoured, and festival visitors could take home a tidy bunch of musical anapshots; the opening theme of Bruckner's Fourth Symphony, played to perfection by the Berlin Philharmonic's new principal horn, Stefan Dohr; the choral and orchestral storm at the start of Otello, brilliantly marshalled by Abbado; Frank Peter Zimmermann's choice of the fascinating Leopold Auer and Kreisler cadenzas in Beethoven's Violin Concerto: and the reluctant smile with which Barnard Haitink acknowledged the standing ovation at the end of his Easter Sunday matinee with the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra.

Nevertheless, it was a far-from-vintage festival. The Kontrapunkte concerts at the Mozarteum were devoted to Italian chamber music

trepiece of the festival. But Italians have always thought of music more as a vocal than instrumental art, so this was never going to be one of the great Kontrapunkte series. It simply underlined the phenomenal effectiveness of Berio's music, especially when set alongside the output of his compatriots. That judgment applies not so much to his Webernesque string

quartet of 1956, a curious piece of youthful homage, as to the equenza instrumental solos deszlingly played by members of the Berlin Philharmonic. These are modern classics. Berio's ear for musical theatre, and his mastery of the balance between form and content, have never been more convincingly demonstrated - especially in Sequenza V for trombone, a tour de force of musical suggestion inspired by a clown Berio knew in his childnood. Hermann Bäumer's performance was inspired.

But the orchestra's excellent chamber music ensembles could not mask the post-serial clichés of Franco Donatoni, Salvatore Sciarrino and other members of the Italian avant-garde. Worst of all was Donatoni's Holly (1990), a dirge of monotonal constructivism for cor anglais, oboe, oboe d'amore and 18 instruments. Why did Kontrapunkte favour composers like Donatoni and completely neglect Nino Rota? Because Donatoni's music, however arid, is politically correct; Rota's tuneful works are too "main-

There were mixed pickings, too, in the symphonic concerts at the Grosses Festspielhaus. The best of the bunch was a Haitink programme pairing the Bruckner Fourth with Mozert's Jeunehomme concerto. In the latter, Murray Perahia provided a kaleidoscopic stream of colours and insights, awakening acute attention from orchestra and audience. Haitink's Bruckner was equally Illuminating, because it was dynamic, taut and purposeful, combining seamless organic growth with a sense of vibrant architecture. It sounded like Bruckner's finest symphony, thanks to Haitink's extraordinary vigour

Comparing this with Abbado's Bruckner Seventh the following evening was salutary; one wondered momentarily why the orchestra chose Abbado and not Haitink as principal conductor. There was none of the cumulative inevitability which marked out Haitink's approach. Too much phrasing and balancing was left to chance, and there was little sense of underlying tempo relationships. In the great Adagio, Bruckner's rising edifice wobbled like jelly, lurching forward one moment, reining back the next. Abbado seems temperamentally unsuited to Bruckner.

Otello was equally disappointing. Perhaps Abbado was hoping that Ermanno Ohmi would bring the same insight to Verdi's great Shakespeare opera as another film direc-tor, Andrei Tarkovsky, brought to Boris Godunov. It was not to be. Olmi's staging was static, mono-chrome and, in the Act 2 flower scene, soppily sentimental. Lucio Fanti's decor consisted of a stepped rock-mound, marooned like an island in the oceanic wastes of the Grosses Festspielhaus stage. It could have been made to work for Triston, but it was an inadequate response to the fluctuating moods and settings of Otello.

The principals were left to fend for themselves. The big draw was Placido Domingo, kitted out by Chloë Obolensky more like a Spanish grandee than a Moor. He was announced as having a cold at Monday's performance, and at one point in Act 2 it looked as if everything might grind to a halt. But even in the sarlier broadcast performance the voice had sounded uncomfortably tight, with all the isolated top notes missing. As for the acting well, these days Domingo is much the same whatever he sings. It would have been preferable to remember him as one of the great Otellos, rather than be confronted by a cracked legand.

In such uninspiring surroundings, Ruggero Raimondi's Iago was subdued - though his stage presence was as strong as ever, and he pulled off the Act I brindist with a compelling mixture of Mephistophelian grandeur and vocal guile. Desde-



Placido Domingo and Ruggero Raimondi in Ermanno Olmi's static staging of 'Otalio'

mone was sung by a promising young Italian, Barbara Frittoli, whose large lyric soprano goes well with her tall good looks.

But the real protagonist was the Berlin Philharmonic. In the more intimate passages, the lights in the pit tapered away to focus on small groups of musicians, and at the final curtain it was no surprise to find the orchestra taking the first

Unchecked by Abbado, they

turned Verdi's music into an instrumental blockbuster, laden with dazzling brass sforzendi and deafening percussive flourishes. Perhaps the acoustical balance of the Grosses Festspielhaus is at fault (though it never seems to bother the Vienna Philharmonic); or perhaps the Berliners are too used to the spotlight to play second fiddle. Whatever the reason, it was alarming and dis-

Gerard Mortjer, director of the

summer festival, will be glad he turned down the chance to co-produce this Otello. Instead, it goes to Turin, and there is talk of reviving it at the 1996 Easter festival. followed by Tristan und Isolde in 1999 and Simon Boccanegra for the millennium.

The acid test of Abbado's policies will come next year with Wozeck. With a staging by Peter Stein, and Bryn Terfel in the title role, how can the "Karajan pilgrims" say no?



Trees in the Countyard, British School in Rome': one of the drawing in an exhibition of work by the Financial Times' art or Peirs Feetham Gellery, 475 Fulham Road, London SW6 from April 19 umil May 11.

Oscar, Steve - and Doris

association: if your instant response to "Oscar" is "Hammerstein", and "Steve" is Sondheim, you have probably already caught Mandy Patinkin at the Almeida in Islington. Patinkin is enormous on Broadway, and a cult here, and the title, Oscar & Stere, sums up his act.

He comes on like a young Tony Curtis, chunkily handsome in a cheap black sweatshirt. His prop is a chair; his support Paul Ford on the mano, and his business is the American popular song. But no, you have not been here before, many times. As soon as Phinkin opens his voice you know this is going to be differ-

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His voice is a high reedy baritone, not unlike Al Joison's, and his material is decidedly quaint - "Red, Red. Robin" and "The Band Played On" feature in the opening medley. But then suddenly Patinkin hits you - the voice drops a couple of octaves and he is draining every ounce of sentiment from the sublime "if

I loved you". Patinkin, Broadway star of Poita and Sunday in the Park with George, highlights his two uninterrupted hours of entertainment with party pieces, "My boy Bill" from Corousel and Trouble in River City

from The Music Man.
You soon see the point of the
old shirt: Patinkin sweats for us, he emotes for us, he strains every nerve for us. He sings with his body, as much as his voice. Sometimes he is twee re-capping the opening of the show for latecomers - but not

His magpie approach to the music is endearing, switching from the Yiddish joke -"Cohen owes me \$97", an Irving Berlin song of 1918 - to the Magic", evocations of sexual

re-assuringly predictable finale of "Somewhere over the Rainbow". In between is the totally unexpected: "Taxi", Harry Chapin's sad song of wasted dreams. He also makes audience participation seem almost like a good idea, with a spirited version of "Honey Bun." If you like your Broadway with balls, Patinkin's for you.

nyone turned away from his sell-out shows might nip round the corner to the King's Head, where Definitely Doris provides more American music. This pretends to be the life and songs of Doris Day, Hollywood's virgin queen, who gave it all up to care for animals and to over-dose on dusting, "Everyone has a hobby. I collect brooms".

There is no quarrel with the songs, over 30 of them presented with reasonable panache by a five strong cast, aided by piano and bass. It is hard not to sing along with such cheerful melodies as "Teacher's Pet", "Secret Love", and "It's

innocence before the great fall. Production values are minimal although Patty Carver makes a fair fist of Doris and Lori Haley Fox has some sparkle; some of the men look as if they have wandered into the wrong show. But the life is another matter. While Little Miss Tooth-

some on screen, famous for

drop, the superficial gloss

never being without her nightie, Doris von Kappelhoff was ill-used by men over three marriages, her last husband leaving her virtually bankrupt. Little of this gets across, the story line being largely based around her silly and sentimental fan mail. This is the comic strip Ms Day, a show created in the US where stars are treated with respect, summed up in their escapist music. Perhaps some time Doris Day's topsy-turvy life and successful career can be presented against a more realistic back-

removed and the truth finally revealed about this surprisingly feisty and enigmatic

Conductor on the move from frigate to oil tanker

As 'Medea' opens in Leeds on Monday, Martin Hoyle talks to Paul Daniel about his work and forthcoming appointment to the English National Opera

s the train slows down and the civic spires rear in the dis-Lance, the sign says "Welcome to the promised land". Not this year in Jerusalem (though Verdi's Jérusalem was builded here in its British premiere). As we are informed, In slightly more salf-effacing

print, this is Leeds.
"The fastest growing city in Britain," says the loyal taxidriver. The North West Yorkshire Playbouse is a relatively new institution and its prede cessor, the Playhouse, was the result of lobbying that started only in 1968. And the Grand Theatre is the seat of the youngest of Britain's regional opera companies. Opera North began as a provincial off-shoot of ENO in 1978, and is now an autonomous, individual high On Monday it takes a risk

with one of opera's problem children. There are at least two versions of Cherubini's Medea, neither of which has enjoyed much success at Covent Garden, despite the presence of Callas in the Germanic overtly "operatic" version 35 years ago. A slimline (and disastrously thrifty-looking) production, conceived as one of the Royal Opera's cheap stopgaps, was booed a decade ago. One of the problems lies in the spoken dialogue - as originally intended - always a trap for opera singers and a potential hobble on the dramatic pace. "It takes more work than singing - not because they're bad at it," the conductor, Paul Daniel, assures me. "It's just not given the time and weight it needs. There was a tradition of spoken rhetoric on the Paris stage and you automatically locked into it."

He reminds me that Carmen and Faust would later also be conceived with speech. "Most of them have recovered from the junk thrown at them extra music, recitatives throughout the 19th century." The pre-Napoleonic Medea (1797) fell victim to the treatment in about 1850 "which has gone in this production," says Daniel firmly. "Not that I'm a purist. I'm for the most perfect version possible. I'd love to admire a good production that used recitatives - like the Callas recording ~ but I just don't think they're right."

Especially as the performance is sung and spoken in English. "It takes it out of the Antony Thorncroft | museum case. It's the immedi-

acy of the piece that hits me. Cherubini was a jobbing com-poser and we're a jobbing opera company.'

This particular job fields Dame Josephine Barstow in the title-role, directed by Phyllida Lloyd, something of an Opera North discovery, with successful productions of Puccini. Britten (Gloriana came south to Covent Garden) and, emerging as a house speciality, Chabrier to her credit. The production side is important to Daniel. "I've never been involved in opera when it was not exciting. I was lucky to start in the 1980s, with David Freeman's Orfeo, not a bad

> 'Dohnányi compares conducting Strauss with visiting a whore'

start, especially as I believe that opera should be as theatrical as any other form of theatre." Opera Factory's punk Beggar's Opera and Punch and Judy (Birtwistle) provided a lesson in sheer audacious stagecraft with singers who could

All of which is relevant to Daniel's future. He is unwilling to talk too much about it since, operatic events taking some time to move cumbersomely into place, the appointment takes effect for the 1997/8 season; and his heart is plainly north of Watford until then; but that is when he moves south to become music director of English National Opera.

Meanwhile Daniel has a new Così fan tutte, a Wozzeck revival and possibly a Wagner work to oversee in Leeds. But he eventually succumbs to the excitement of the prospect and talks, guardedly, of plans for St Martin's Lane. "I'm terrified. Isn't it the second busiest opera house in the world in terms of product? There's a danger in a very, very, very big machine. I'm used to working in a frigate. ENO's... an oil tanker. In terms of size. You need more energy. Of course," he adds, looking brighter, "you can get more into an oil tanker than a frigate." (Ironically, those who have worked at

ENO like its human scale

when compared to one of the

sausage-factories churning out assembly-line productions, like Munich.)

his mid-thirties, a vast operatic experience to the London Coliseum, unlike his predecessor, the musicianly Sian Edwards, who struck some critics as learning the opera-house rou-tine as she did the job. Something of a Verdi specialist (he conducted that Jerusalem), he ranges from Mozart to Berg. taking in the Russians (he worked on the translation of Dargomizhsky's Stone Guest with his wife, the soprano Joan Rodgers, when he conducted the British premiere at ENO in 1987). But when it comes to repertoire, "Your job is not to be a judge." He quotes Rudolf Kempe who brought talent to routine revivals of Carmen and Butterfly while remaining a superlative Wagner and

You feel Verdi ls Daniel's

idol; something of a problem, given that the British produce notable voices for Mozart, even Wagner, but not full-throated Italianate tone? "The other day, talking about whether a voice was going to be Italian or German, I concluded there was no difference – except that Italians train better. In terms of what we think of as tradition, some of the best Wagner voices are Italian-trained. I can't bear Wagner being belted, the kind of bull-worker tradition - 'I can exert more pounds per square inch than you'. I think Wagner should be more trans-

parent than Puccini. So what about Puccini, bread-and-butter of the rep? 'Amazing. You care for his characters." Mozart? "Recently a soprano came to sing, not audition, just work in progress. Her Eva [Meistersinger] was very easy, but when she sang the Countess in Figaro it became apparent that if you're not touching base with Verdi and Mozart you can go seriously off the rails. For Eva, for Puccini, you don't have to be completely fit. You have to be in absolutely top form for Amelia or the Countess. Like going back to the doctor for a check-up you go back to the classical repertoire - I count

Verdi as classical too." The mention of Strauss reveals someone not entirely converted. "The best Strauss is the shortest. The orchestral pieces are brilliant but as soon

as it's more than half an

continental European operatic hour... Christoph von Dohnanyi compares conducting Strauss with visiting a whore. It's exciting to think about, fun Artistically, Daniel brings, in while you're doing it, but you

feel ashamed afterwards." We move quickly on to the contemporary repertory. "I'm still devoted to the idea that one day we'll live in a cultura in which a composer writes for the theatre and audience that he knows, where they know one another. It had been good enough for 300 years, until this century. We've done nearly a quarter of opera's lifetime without it. It's a bit worry-

ing . . . Daniel has no desire to be a figurehead MD. Opera North. he maintains, provides an example of collective loyalty. "Here there's a sense of adventure, a sort of equality, where every point of view has the same validity. Some of our best ideas come from what in other companies would be called the bottom rung." He has one or two "babies" he regrets leaving up north, notably in the field of new orchestral commissions

from young composers. But he has no doubt that his departure from Leeds will, in the broad scheme of things, be as seamless as he hopes his arrival in WC2 will be. "Companies are wheels that go round and round. They don't stop for one person to get off and another one to get on. If it's a good company the wheel turns very positively, no slowing down, when you get off and

someone gets on." Pipe him aboard the oil tanker; and beware the rocks.



Stanley Stewart visits a remnant of a seafaring world

anzibar seems to belong to an atlas of the imagination. somewhere between Ruritania and Lilliput. Even the name suggests fantasy, less a destination than a traveller's mantra, sibilant and seductive. Say it often enough and carpets might fly.

But on the crowded quays of Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar was just another port of call. Passengers armed with suitcases the size of wardrobes were buying tickets from a row of boat

In the bustle of departure I was carried aboard between a tearful woman and a man trying to interest me in his rubber stamp business. We set sail for Zanzibar through a harbour of rusting freighters.

By the time of its cameo appearance in The Arabian Nights, in the 9th century, the island of Zanzibar was part of a seafaring world in which Muscat. Mombasa and the Malabar Coast were tethered to one another by the trade winds of the Indian Ocean.

By the 15th century, when the Portuguese arrived, it was one of a chain of thriving East African coastal cities which bore little connection to the interior. Its religion came from Arabia, its traditions from Persia, and its luxuries from India

Only a century ago its estates stretched from the African lakes to the Gulf and its rulers were courted by the crown princes of Europe. Today it is part of Tanzania, one of the poorest countries in East Africa.

From Dar, it is an hour's crossing on a sea decorated with dhows. From an upper deck I watched Zanzibar rise from the horizon: first the tipsy palm trees, then a patchwork of rust roofs and a line of bleached colonnades.

The porter who shouldered my bag on the quay was the descendant of men who had carried Speke's portable sundial to the sources of the Nile. He warned me about other porters, by his account a disrepuTravel notes for Zanzibar

3 Flights: The author travelled to Africe with Lufthansa 0345-737747) which files four times a week to Natrobi. Fares from 2365 return. Air Tanzania (002542-336224) operates onward flights to Dar es Saleem (1992) and Zanzibar (1984). From Dar es Salaam rumerous boat and hydrofoli services reach Zanzibar in 75 minutes. Tour operators include Abercrombie & Kent (0171-730 9600) which offers a week in Zanzibar from £979.

nodation: The Reaf Hotel (0025411471771), a luxury resort on the coast 10 minutes south of the town, has bungalows from £75. In the old town, Emersons House (0025554-30413) is recommended. Should you break your journey in Nairobl, the Norfolk (0800-181123) costs from £143 for a twin. In Dar es Salaam the Shereton

(0800-353535) offers a rare casts in a steamy city from £35. Tours of Zanzibar town and the Island can be arranged through Madeira Tours Culdebooks: Guide to Zanzibar and Pemba by David Else (Bradt)

Other information: Anti-malaria tablets should be taken Vaccinations for typhold, tetanus, meningitis and hepatitis A and yellow fever should be up to date. British citizens do not require a was for Tanzania but are asked to obtain a visitor's pass from the Terrzanian High Commission in London (0171-491 3600).

Publications, £8.95) and East African Handbook (Trade & Travel

table mob. It had a familiar ring. Stanley had so much trouble with his Zanzibari por-

ters he hanged half of them.

The hotel was a cavernous mansion built by an Indian trader of the last century. The rooms were furnished with canopied beds and captains' chests. Downstairs the receptionist slept on embroidered bolsters, while beyond the shuttered windows a donkey rider had paused to buy figs from an ancient sage. Like any island, Zanzibar is

a secretive place. Crumbling Arab and Indian mansions overhang the narrow lanes, their interiors hidden behind lattice screens and vast doors. Elaborately carved and stud-

ded with brass, doors are so important to the island's psyche that it is said they are erected first and the house built around them. Yet they are always ajar, the instinct for privacy is complicated by a native exuberance. Domestic life spills into the streets like cooking smells with its quarreis, children and gossip.

Zanzibar is Venice without the canals, quirky and idiosyncratic, full of surprises and odd turns. The meanest alley can

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cushioned divans. "Zanzibar is a hybrid," Emerson said over his malaria medicine, formidable gins and tonics.

"It's neither Arab nor African. Its ambivalence means that everyone feels it belongs to them." Breaking the jum-bled roofscape of the town were a host of minarets, the spires of two cathedrals and the intricate facade of a Hindu

On the sea front, next to the old Arab fort, stands the magnificent House of Wonders. Originally the Sultan's guest house, it contained the first lift in East Africa. It is now under renovation and I was disappointed not to get inside. A recent visitor reported seeing a collection of vintage limousines under cloaks of dust and the ballot boxes, still un-opened, of the 1964 election.

Next door is the Sultan's palice, now a museum. The household furnishings neatly describe the decline of the dynasty. The carved Indian teak of earlier centuries suggests power and stability but once the Formica coffee tables and fitted wardrobes arrived in the 1950s, revolution could not be far behind.

It came in 1964, a few months after independence, carrying away the Sultan and the merchant classes. It is said that 17,000 Arab and Indian traders were massacred in a single night. The consequences were inevitable - economic stagnation, shortages and emigration. Within a few years, the only British colony to achieve independence with a surplus was an economic basket case.

From an upper balcony of

the palace I gazed down into the royal graveyard where bitter rivals now lie side-by-side. Their history through the 19th century reads like a soap opera ghosted alternately by Dostoevsky and Jilly Cooper, complete with fratricide, blood feuds, chase scenes, narrow escapes and adultery in the banana groves. The last Sultan of Zanziber sought refuge in England after the revolution where he retired. like a bank

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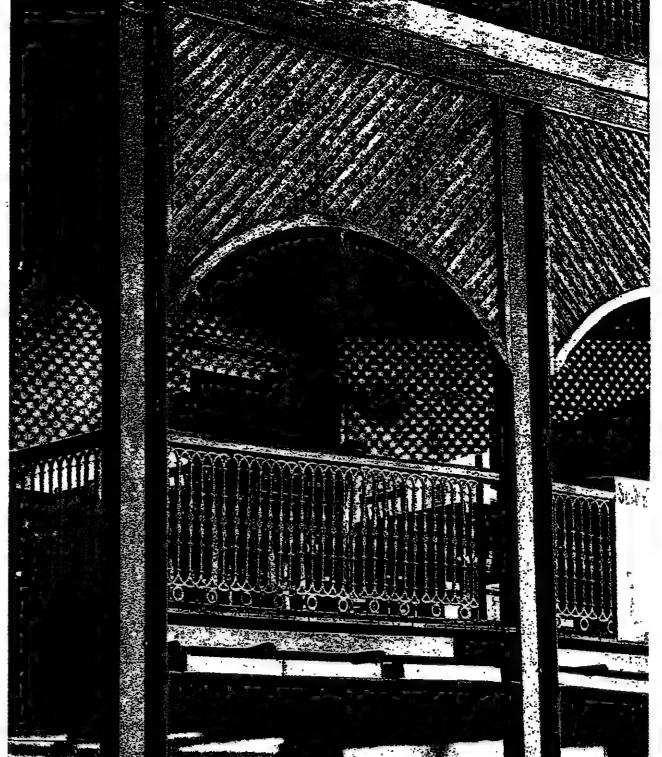
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clerk, to the south coast. The home counties find an echo in the Anglican cathedral with its stained glass, memorial plaques and musty air of neglect. Erected on the site of the old slave market, its crucifix is made from the tree under which David Livingstone's heart was buried in Zambia. Livingstone's reputation is somewhat overstated. In nearly 30 years in Africa he only made one convert, and he

But Zanzibar is primarily

ensure that scheduled airline passengers get their money back when air-

lines go bust. The European

Commission is considering a

scheme which would cover

travellers throughout the com-

Britain, meanwhile, may

jump the gun - but only to

munity.

where the real religious action problems was where to put is. They pop up in the narrow lanes like corner shops, their doorsteps crowded with worshippers' shoes. After prayers the men sit outside and talk in an atmosphere reminiscent of a gentleman's club, minus the

Beyond the town, along the coast road between spice plantations and orchards of tropical fruit, lie the ruins of palaces. Royal households in this part of the world suffered from exponential growth, and one of

everyone. At Sultan Said's palace at Mtoni, the household was said to number more than

Said built Beit el Ras Palace next door to accommodate the overflow: 75 official consorts and 120 children, plus servants His son Sultan Berghash built yet another to house surplus concubines, said to number more than 100. Each had her own bath-house in which to

Back in Zanzibar town I

retired for a sundowner to the

Africa House Hotel, the former British club adorned with ema-ciated hunting trophies, sepia photographs and a pair of canon in the entrance hall.

The British always had the best real estate, and the terrace of the old club enjoys the finest sansets in East Africa. The lights of the mainland are too far to be visible.

On the darkening ocean, Zamibar seems cut adrilt from Africa, alone with the trade winds, a remnant of a seafaring world, belonging to no one - a traveller's paradis

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of balconies and pillared porti-

dusty stairwells, divided tene-

ments and the smell of fish. In

the streets one still finds men

in flowing robes and women in

veils. In tall, shuttered rooms

overlooking the sea there are

still the clan loyalties, the

whispered plots, the Byzantine

self-respecting African explorer

came first to Zanzibar where

the slave traders offered advice

and porters for journeys to the

interior. Burton, off to look for

the sources of the Nile, was taken with its licentiousness.

Livingstone, off to look for

souls, was mesmerised by the

place. Stanley, off to look for

Livingstone, called it the Bagh-

dad, Isfahan and Istanbul of

The island remains a landfall

for expatriates. It is the Casa-

blanca of our day, a backwater

where expatriate hoteliers and

professional travellers can still

aniov coenac at a shilling a

shot. At Emerson's House, a

splendid hotel run by a way-

ward American, I dined with

the proprietor on a rooftop of

East Africa

In the 19th century any

intrigues of the harem.

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Mont-Blanc renaissance

anomaly, with discount travel-

lers protected and full price

cover passengers buying cut-price tickets. Under British and, now. European law, package tour operators are obliged to protect customers' payments by arr-Memories of Jean Coctean. polymath of the French avant-garde, are flooding back anging bonds, insurance or to the Hotel Mont-Blanc in Megève. Cézanne's grandson Phillipe is helping proprietors locking the money in an Escrow account. Jean-Louis and Jocelyne Sibuet Scheduled passengers are to assemble a collection of Coc-

Tew moves are afoot to it would create an even dafter

left to take their chances. The only way they can be confident of getting their money back is to pay by credit card.
Airlines usually rally round and provide seats at special after a root and branch refur-

rates for stranded passengers if a rival goes under. But while they may get seats at special, low rates, that still means the victims have to fork out twice. This glaring anomaly has stood out even more obviously as deregulation of Europe's air routes blurs the distinction between scheduled and charter

The Civil Aviation Authority long ago proposed to end it with a fund which would cover passengers flying from Britain, but British Airways did not like it and the government did

Now the CAA proposes that passengers buying seats at "unpublished" prices through consolidators - agents once known generically as bucket shops - should be protected.

Consolidators already need Air Tour Organisers Licences (Atols). As a condition of those licences they must put up bonds to reimburse customers if they - the agents - cease trading. But some have been refusing to accept responsibility when airlines go down.

customers see the Atol symbol, they automatically assume their money is safe. They are being misled, it fears. Objectors to its proposal say

The CAA argues that when



Check-In/Roger Bray

teau's lithographs and sketches, to be hung in the hibrary. The Mont-Blanc is enjoying its first year of renaissance

bishment. In the 1950s, the original art deco hotel was so popular with the Paris arts world that it became known as the 21st arondissement, after St Germain-des-Prés. It was there that Georges Boisson, its then owner, described by one writer as un

jeune papillon de nuit, had become transfixed by Cocteau and his contemporaries. Roger Vadim first went there on a photo shoot with Lesley Caron and later used room 105 as part of the backdrop for Les Liaisons Dangereuses starring the young Brigitte Bardot. Jeanne Moreau occupied room

19 în La Marquise de Merteuil.

Aly Khan and Rita Hayworth

stayed there. Cocteau painted a fresco in the restaurant. In recent years the hotel had become run down. The Sibuets, a local couple who started by renovating the Hotel Coin du Feu, bought the Mont-Blanc just over two years ago and applied their imaginative eye for detail, introducing plenty of wood panelling and antique

In the reception lounge, where a lovely tarte aux framboises awaits hungry skiers or



on a beam: "Style is a very simple way of saying some-thing complicated."

On the trail of Jane Austen Oscars equal tourists. When

London's Docklands were dis-guised as Vietnam for Stanley Kubrick's Full Metal Jacket, it seemed unlikely that any part of Britain would remain untouched by screen associations. The recent triumph of Braveheart in Hollywood appears to have taken the Scottish Tourist Board unawares.

It has not got around yet to producing a trail map showing locations where the film was shot and places associated with its hero, William Wallace. But Hampshire County Council anticipated the success of Sense and Sensibility with a booklet entitled - like it or loathe it - Jane Austen Country. Until May 6, the excellent little museum in the Austen family home at Chawton, near Alton, where she revised the manuscript, will display costumes from the film and from the television adaptation of Pride and Prejudice.

Not to be outdone is Fish-Les Enfants Terribles is carved saw the climax of John Hus-

Can Brussels aid air passengers? ton's 1956 version of Moby Dick. The town will celebrate the film's 40th anniversary and the centenary of cinema with an exhibition, comprised mainly of photographs of its making.

The whale will loom large in its absence, however. Several were made, of tubular steel and rubber skin, and all are thought to have been lost at

A sharp jab in the wallet

A monodose means two injections and, while some general practitioners still provide it free, it can cost as much as £97. Confused? You will be if you need vaccination against Hepatitis A. Travellers can either go for the old gamma globulin protection, which gives two to three months' cover, or choose

Havrix, made by SmithKline Beecham, which lasts 10 years. Problem is, there are two kinds of Havrix - the original triple dose, which has been superseded by the so-called monodose (one immediately, with a booster after 6-12 months). Although the manufacturers say they can still supply it on request, the last stocks of the triple are about to run out in Britain

In many countries, however. the newer dose is still not available. These are believed to include Australia and much of Africa. The company advises that people making long trips to such destinations and who are there when they need the booster, should have the third of the triple doses. It will not last the full 10 years, but it will increase resistance.

As for price, some CP5 charge a nominal amount. Lon-don's Berkeley Travel Clinic charges £90 for the monodose course (£10 for gamma globulin) and British Airways' fee is £97. If you are contemplating going to a local doctor, get in quickly. Some medical experts believe it is only a matter of walkers, a line from Cocteau's guard, south Wales. Its bay available on the National time before Havrix is no longer Health Service.

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The street was given

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e took a room on the high hill to the north of Cordoba looking down into the valley of the Guadalquivir, scruffy at this point with industry and a cliff-fall of apartment blocks to mark the city's

Beyond, the hills rose once again in a green sweep, leading the eye into the mountains. The land between the city and the high sierra is cattle and cereal country, terrain of great landowners and Gipsies in

"On a clear day you can see the Sierra Nevada," said Antonio Matas, our host, "all the way across into Granada." At night, as we discovered, villages shone on the wide hills oppo-site like luminous fish in a dark

His hotel, so Matas told us, was once a private house, about 100 years old. Having converted it, he named it al-Mihrab - the prayer niche of a mosque - in honour of Arab antecedents in these parts.

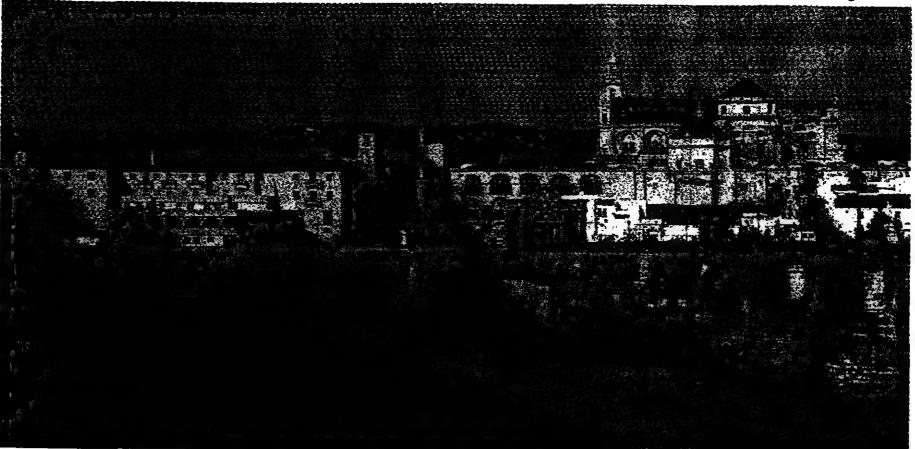
For Cordoba, of course, the for-mer Roman capital of Baetica, had fallen into Moorish hands in AD711 and gone on to become, within two centuries, the greatest city in all Europe, centre of learning and the arts, science and up-to-date sericultural technique.

By the 10th century, Cordoba had its very own caliph, political rival to the big boss in Baghdad, and he ruled, except for Christian pockets in the north, the whole of modern Spain and Portugal

Morning found us among the ruins of the caliphs' palace, a few kilometres down river from Cor-doba. The caliphal palace-city stood at the point where the descending sierra met - and meets - the flatlands of the valley, providing from its own descending terraces another triumphant set of views.

By name Madinat al-Zahra (Medina Azahara in Spanish), it was a huge affair, with military head-quarters, slaves, harem and workshops, full of reception rooms with horseshoe arches and a vast garden, symbolising heaven. Embassies came from the Christian emperor in Byzantium; Madinat al-Zahra sent out its own missions as far as the

Christian kings arrived from the north, as well. One of them - Sancho the Fat of Leon - came in search of a cure for his obesity. He was treated by the multilingual Jewish doctor, and patron of poets, Hasdai ibn Shaprut, who acted as Adam Hopkins tries to imagine the vanished majesty of the Caliphs who ruled 1,000 years ago



Cordobe: once you have penetrated the W-favoured outer shell, it is now so sweet and questly pretty that it is hard to think of its great peat

I mention this partly because Madinat al-Zahra - sacked, lost, found again, partly excavated and partly reconstructed - is a fine place for an outing. But it is also the case that Cordoba itself, once you have penetrated the ill-favoured outer shell, is now so sweet and petite and quietly pretty, with its white lanes and geranium-filled patios, complete with fountains, ferns and gorgeous tilework, that it is hard even to imagine the van-ished majesty of the caliphate 1,000

But there is, as all good tourists know, one building in Cordoba which gives a clue. This is the Great Mosque or Mezquita; and here, maintaining tourist discipline, we eventually, circuitously, arrived.

The Great Mosque stands near the river bank where the Roman road comes into town across the many-arched Roman bridge. The mosque is low, roofed like a saries But within, of course - you must

at least have seen the photographs it is an endless, centre-less series of slender columns, with red and white striped horseshoe arches rising over them, unbelievably flash, with a further set of arches rising

over them again, for all the world-

like jockeys. Shadowy, dashing, sombre, apt for prayer and meditation, and with some gorgeous mosaics - courtesy of the emperor in Byzantium it is arguably the greatest building of early medieval Europe, preceding the Alhambra, not so far off geographically, by quite 400

The mosque has probably survived because the Christians eventually built a cathedral in the middie of it, disrupting every internal vista. To get to it you have to walk through the poplar groves of the Islamic columns and under the red and white striped arches.

Technically, the whole building goes by the name of the Cathedral of Cordoba so that when you pay

The said the

your entrance fee, 750 pesetas, you are paying it to Mother Church.

You can get in free, however, if you are going to morning mass, something I have done occasionally over the years, as much from curiosity as economy. Last time I went, there was a congregation of six fac-

ut even if the Church's following is in decline, one powerful idea still lurks in Cordoba. This is the persistent belief that here at least, in the days of Moorish rule, Islam, the swish faith and Christianity actually lived together in considerable harmony. In Spanish the word for this is *communicia*.

We have heard that a museum dealing with convivencia, and featuring such oddities as talking statues, has been established in the magnificant tower of La Calahorra where the Roman bridge touches ground on the far side of the river; and here, with mosquely duties done, we soon repaired.

The talking statues talk all right, and go on for quite a while. They include the Jewish polymath Maimonides and the Moorish philosopher Averroes who restored the original, unencumbered thought of Aristotle and Plato to medieval

Both were Cordobans; and quotations from their works, received by the paying public in many languages, certainly suggest a notion of mutual tolerance

There are exhibitions on astronomy (the Moors were brilliant timekeepers and navigators), on Moorish irrigation and the Moorish doctor whose method of tracheotomy was used until early this century. It is a gimmicky, hi-tech kind of place, but impressive. A well-known English architect,

encountered by chance on the museum stairs, appeared to have had a blinding conversion while doing his round.
"What a lesson for all of us this

is," he said, unprompted. "What a pointer for the future of the world." He was going straight home to his studio, he added, to redesign plans for buildings all around the globe.

It came as a real surprise to learn that the museum, right in the heart of Spanish-Moorish Cordoba, was the brain-child of a French philosopher - or so we deduced him to be from books on sale at the museum door. He happened to be in Cordoba; and, yes, he would be glad to see

Roger Garaudy's house, for that was his name, was in the Juderia. the Old Jewry - the most characterful quarter of ancient Cordoba, epicentre of patios glimpsed through half-closed doorways, of round little cobblestones and stark white walls with iron grilles on windows.

There is a fragile synagogue built in Moorish style, a statue of Maimonides companionably seated, even a bullfighting museum, heaven help us, not to mention the excellent Bar Salinas, the best spot

AUSTRALIA

in Cordoba for tapas, just by the Almodóvar gate.

And so we came at last to Garaudy's house, entered by a typically Cordoban patio, to meet a vigorous old man, 82 years of age, with an extraordinary history. Marxist and Christian militant in France in the pre-war years, he had been caught by the Germans as a resistance activist and imprisoned, oddly

enough, in the Sahara. Here he led a rebellion of prisoners and was sentenced to death. But the firing squad, composed of Moslem troops, refused as a point of honour to shoot an unarmed man. This was his first contact with

We surmise from his talk - later confirmed by people who should know - that he was a guru of France's intellectual left during the 1950s and 1960s. In 1970 the Communist party threw him out for being insufficiently Stalinist

"I contemplated suicide," he told us. "It seemed that my life's work was wasted." Finally, in the 1980s, he turned to Islam, "But I entered the faith," he said, "with a Bible in one hand and Karl Marx in the

It was his deep belief in the possi bilities of convivencia, experienced, we supposed, personally, that had led him to Cordoba to establish the museum in the tower of La Calahorra - beiped by his friend, the communist mayor of the city at the time, Julio Anguita. He now leads Spain's national hard-left party, the Izquierda Unida or United Left.

But we must look to the future," said Garaudy, waving us goodbye. "The next project is a manuscript library to be called 'The Memory of Andalusia', delivered on Internet. And the step after that will be a Museum of Water, looking at both past and future."

We walked away into the Old Jewry, touched and impressed at the anduring power of the concept of convivencia in Cordoba.

■ On his recent tour of Andalucia, Adam Hopkins flew with Iberia to Malaga and back via Seville. Tel: 0171-830 0011. For the three-star Hotel al-Mibrah

telifax: 00 84 57 272198Z or, in the UK, book via Travellers Way (01527-936791), from £27 a person a night b&b. There is also a (modern) parador in Cordoba, belonging to Spain's chain of state hotels. UK bookings and inquiries via Keytel (0177-402 8182).

Further information, Spanish National Tourist Office, 51 St James's St, London SW1A ILD

Celebration of plastic bricks

Whirlybird model helicopter, 20ft in the air. you cannot fail to gulp at the effrontery behind Britain's latest tourist

Not content with having created one of the world's best known consumer products, the Danish toy company Lego wants to boost its image, and global sales, still more with a chain of international theme

Just in case anyone misees the link, Lego has thoughtfully provided four shops dotted around its new Legoland park in Windsor, west of London, crammed with the ubiquitous bricks and miniature figures.

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It is certainly a fine it make for a day's entertainment?

The answer will depend on just how much of a kick you get from Lego products, sold in 120 countries and which provide revenues for the family-owned company estimated at £1bn a year

That, in turn, is related to your age. The Windsor park -the first Legoland outside the original theme park in the company's home town in Billund, central Denmark, and which is due to be followed by up to 15 more over the next 50 years - contains few of the spectacular rides that other, more conventional theme parks have to tempt teenagers and people in their 20s.

The accent at Legoland is on gentle entertainment for children under 12. Many of the park's attractions have a clear, though fairly subtle, reference to a Lego product. The park's central feature is Miniland, a representation of towns and villages in different parts of

Europe and made from 25m

Lego bricks The subliminal message from this impressive piece of work is that you can create nour own Minifand in your bedroom - so long as you get your mum or dad to spend the necessary fortune on the plastic parts.

Widening the appeal of its attraction, Lego has provided in Minitand a number of realistic railway networks. including a model Enroster. Pirate Falls, another part of Legoland which takes you on a

boot ride culminating in a

sudden, extremely wet descent, involves a journey past dozens of life-size pirates and animals. They look ... familiar because they are models available from shops. The Whirlybird helicopters in another ride have the same simple, functional style as the pieces from the company's

Perhaps the most powerful pieces of symbolism are remarkably lifelike models of birds, ants and butterflys - all created from Lego bricks which festoon the "Enchanted

Forest" part of the park. Even the Spinning Spider, a fairly basic ride in which people sit inside large, teacup-sized vessels and spin around, is "Lego-ised" by the addition of a huge, malevolent-looking spider

made from plastic bricks. It is while sitting on a ride like this that the enormity hits home of what Lego thinks it can achieve.

Try to imagine any other theme park built around a single consumer product, say Sony Walkman, a Rolex watch or a Barbie doll.

Lego reckons it can persuade 1.4m people a year into its Windsor park – each paying up to £15 and coming from all over Europe – for what is an unstated celebration of its basic products. That says something not only about the variety of uses to which Lego bricks can be put, but the depth of their appeal to adults

as well as children. As though underlining this link between the infant and grown-up worlds, the most surreal image is a giant montage depicting the heads of three boys - made up,

naturally, of Lego bricks. This is remarkably similar in concept to a striking picture at the company's Billund headquarters, also made from bricks, of the three men, all from the Kirk Christiansen family, who have run Lego since its inception in 1932.

Legoland cost £85m to build, and is a mixture of solid Scandingvian planning and design that swings between kitsch and fantasy. Will it be a success? The verdict of my nine-year-old son was clear enough. He wanted to go back. We did not, however, buy any

Peter Marsh

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ships beckon, English foot-ball finds itself in an all-

too-familiar dilemma:

should it believe in the



Soccer / Peter Aspden

Desperately seeking the art in their feet

mations and tactics? In recent months, the national mood has jurched from unwarranted gloom to a frothy optimism that is equally unrealistic - a classic symptom of the inferiority complex that

efficacy of its traditional virtues pace, power, strength - to match superior technique, or should it try to

play the "modern" way, spicing its muscular approach to the game with

an exotic blend of uncomfortable for-

has clouded the English game. First, the low point: when Holland produced that classic display of tacti-cal sophistication to dismantle an over-ripe and uninspiring Irish side to clinch qualification for Euro 96, the doom-mongers in England were swift to make their presence felt. Here was the quick, ciever football played by intelligent, mobile players which International sucress demanded.

of Terry Venables's team even getting close to this level of maturity. His side had been characterised by the selfless - and fruitless - running of Alan Shearer into the "channels" down the wings, a primitive, predictable move on which international

there was none of the improvisation fort on the ball, cried the critics. and ability to surprise required to But it took the old Dutch maestro break down obstinate defences at the Ruud Gullit, carrently proving almost

Ajax seemed hamstrung by the very qualities which had had the commenas distinguished in the commentary box as he has been on the field, to give his compatriots a warning. He tators drooling just a few months earthought some of the Dutch play had lier. Their endless, square passing was a picture of impotence rather been sloppy and complacent, stressing by implication the weakness of their than elegance; the quality of their crossing was non-league standard. I wonder if any listened. For there Finally, they gave away the inevitable were signs in the Champions' League goal on the break. They face an champions Ajax and the Athenian fanatical atmosphere of the away leg

side Panathinaikos, that Dutch footon Wednesday. ball is rather too ready to believe in By coincidence, on the very night its own - and other people's - hype. that Ajax's trendy young stars found-In short, Alax made a terrible hash of ered in Amsterdam, English football things. Even allowing for the defenwas rediscovering its self-confidence. sive stubbornness of the Greek side, The Premiership match between

sistible flow and thunderous climax. was instantly halled as one of the greatest ever played on these shores. Here was open, fluent, brave football played by young men who were far from embarrassed by possession of the ball - indeed they all wanted it, all the time. There were classic strikes on goal, moments of high skill

left crowd and managers exhausted. To take just one example, the contrast between England hopeful Steve Macmanaman, buoyant, positive, dipping his shoulder once, twice, three times on every thrilling run, and Ajax's Finidi George, cramped, inhibited and wasteful in his efforts to round the

at fast pace, relentless attacking and

a see-sawing sequence of goals which

Panathinaikos defence, could not

have been greater.

But what lessons could Venables have taken home with him? He is surely too experienced a manager to think that the uninhibited style which both Liverpool and Newcastle avour these days will be emulated in Euro 96. Important tournaments are traditionally cautious, nervous affairs. Mistakes count heavily. But in the form of Macmanaman,

Robbie Fowler, Les Ferdinand and even the tireless Peter Beardsley, he surely saw glimpses of the confidence which is the cornerstone of team success. These players have enough art in their feet to disturb any defence.

It was sheer confidence, almost above all else, which characterised Paul Gascoigne's remarkable early performances in an England shirt. All talk of superior "continental" technique must be banished from the dressing room.

The same message comes from Gullit himself, who, in an interview in next month's World Soccer, criticises uct down. Venables now has a vital role to play as team psychologist as well as tactician. He must convince his players that English football can match any in the world - even if he cannot quite bring himself to believe

Baseball / Michael Carlson

The Cuban connection

relations between Cubs and the US is through baseball. On the sporting scene, no two such diverse cultures could be closer.

Four days after the Cuban Air Force shot down two Cessnas belonging to Brothers to the Rescue, the Miami-based Cuban exile organisation, Livan Hernandez pitched for Florida Marlins in an exhibition against the University of Miami The aircraft were allegedly searching for people defec-ting from Cuba to the US. Last summer, Hernandez defected from Cuba's national baseball

Only 21, 6ft 2in and weighing 220lb, Hernandez has the wide bottom and sturdy thighs of a power pitcher. In his official debut against the World Series champion Braves, he showed the poise of a veteran, throwing three innings and allowing only one hit.

Tm just here to do a job, he said afterward. "I knew the Braves from TV, but I didn't approach them any differently from the University of Miami. Five days later, he faced Toronto Blue Jays, in a game

moved from the Marlins' spring training site in sleepy Melbourne to their normal home park in Miami. In spite of persistent rain, Hernandez drew 17,000 fans to Joe Robbie Stadium. He pitched four nohit innings, and even hit a double himself.

CBS was there to give Hernandez his first national TV exposure. To them the story was the choice between America's freedom and Castro's slavery. In Melbourne, Hernandez had said as much to me. "I was looking for freedom, a good living for my family, and I'd reached my limit in amateur hasehall.

But for Hernandez, the US is just a place to play baseball. He established his residency in the Dominican Republic; had he sought asylum in the US, he would have been forced into baseball's amateur draft, severely limiting his bergain-

ing power.

The defections of Hernandez, and three other Cubans, were engineered by agent Joe

The Marlins wanted Hernandez because they needed to make an impact with Miami's huge Cuban community. "Playing in front of the Cuban peocouldn't put a price tag on," said Cubes, although he managed to tag his client with a four-year contract worth at least \$4.5m, including a signing bonus of \$2.5m.

In Cubs, the love of baseball

ne way to follow the course of the stormy brought the game to the island in 1886. When America's first professional league started play in 1871, a Cuban was playing for Troy (NY) Haymakwhat's on in

the principal

The Marlins' Spanish radio announcers are both Cuban. Fero Ramirez broadcast Havana Sugar Kings' win in the 1959 Little World Series. "The expansion of baseball to Montreal - that franchise should have been in Havana." "It was Costro's fault," adds his partner, Manolo Alvarez.

Legend says the Cuban leader was scouted by Washington Senators. Alvarez scoffs: "Fidel pitched for the law faculty at the University of Havana. He couldn't make the varsity. He was a wild and crazy pitcher then. He still

The Cuban love for baseball has not translated into support for the Marlins. But Tony Perez, a Cuban-born star now director of international relations for the team, sees that

changing. "They are very excited. They call the radio shows and ask about Livan." Is it a lot to ask a 21-year-old to rescue a franchise? "He can handle the pressure. He's used to big international games, he's got a guaranteed contract, and lots

of support," says Perez. "in my day, we were cannon fodder. We started in small towns where no one ever spoke Spanish. If we made it, fine. If

we didn't, so what?"

Cubas felt "the best thing was watching Livan confronted with the American way". But when I ask how he relaxes, Livan gets stuck. He says he plays dominoes with his Latino teammates. Then he blushes. "I watch Mexican soap operas on TV.

CBS hoped Livan might have a problem with the pre-game ritual of the US anthem. Basketball star Mahoumd Abdul-Rauf had created a furore by not standing to attention. Her-nandez handled it deftly.

"I am playing for an American team, so of course I respect their anthem. I will be Cuban till I die, but I'm only a sportsman. Politics and sports are different things. I don't want to mix them."

Everyone else does. Hernandez will be a drawing card and a symbol, like it or not. When Cuba's national team plays in Atlanta's Olympics, a flock of hoping to play the \$1m freedom card.

And Miami's Cubans, with their own star to follow, may start to appreciate the quality franchise in their adopted back

Road Test / Stuart Marshall Starlet Express

ew small cars are arriving so thick difficult to keep 30 per cent of all European sales - and half are bought or used by women.

When men ruled the motoring roost, performance had a far greater influence than it does today. Buyers now take it for granted that any car, however small, will be able to keep up with the motorway pack. They are more interested in

ease of driving and parking, safety and security, economy and refinement. Also, of course, they want value for money, with entry models expected to cost around £8,000,

It has to be said that the new-generation superminis are more remarkable for their similarities than their differences. Probably the most sensible way to choose one would be to short-list those that look best to you, compare prices, equipment levels and warranty terms - and then soueeze the best trade-in price for your old car. It is a racing certainty that whichever one you choose will

The latest Toyota Starlet. which I have just sampled in Spain and which goes on sale in Britain on Monday week. should be one of the most competitive in its class. List prices start at 27,599, making the entry model three-door Sportif

MOTORS

SMPW 7501L-94 55k miles. All extros. Superidus V12 engine. Shapler than new shape, A future classic car in it's prime £27,000 eno. 01902 £03003 0802 158060.



The new generation power-steered Toyota Stariet Sportif five-door almost £1,000 cheaper than its

old Starlet equivalent. There are three-door and five-door bodies and two trim/ equipment levels. Sportif and CD (for which, in older times read standard and de luxe). The Sportifs lack the CD's sun roof, electric front windows. twin side-impact beams. tachometer and central locking, and none of the three doors has height-adjustable front seatbelts. But power-assisted steering, a £390 extra on the entry model, is otherwise

standard Every Starlet has a driver's airbag, 60/40 split rear seat. remote fuel flap and tailgate release and, unusually, electric headlamp levelling.

For the time being, there is just one engine: a notably smooth-running 74-horsepower, 16-valve, 1.3-litre from the larger Corolla range. It has been tuned to produce plenty of low-speed torque (pulling power), which came in handy on hills and in Madrid's fast moving rush-hour traffic. Care was needed to stay within the 75mph (120kph) limit, even on uphill stretches of motorway.

around 43mpg (6.57 1/100km) in average use. The standard fivespeed gearbox is as userfriendly as you would expect Japanese manual transmission to be; a three-speed automatic is a £700 optional extra.

There is nothing remotely will worry typical buyers retired couples as well as younger women - not one bit. They are more likely to be impressed by the Starlet's reputation, gained over many years, for utter reliability, It has been Toyota's most trouble-free car.

Around the straight-ahead position, the steering feels curiously dead. But the handling is safely predictable and the Starlet rides well on all kinds of roads, although tall drivers (and front passengers) would like the seats to push back further. Multi-coloured flashes on the body side protectors do nothing for the looks of what, otherwise, is a smart, well-pro-portioned and practical small

Prices of power-steered Starlets range from £8,519 (Sportif five-door) to £10,699 (CD, five-

wish that it did not. Nine years ago, the FT marked the beginning of my small grand plan for a series of avenues in the garden by printing an appropriate cartoon. The plan was to imitate the old French tradition of five avenues, radiating outwards like the points of a goose's webbed foot, what used to be known as a patte d'oie. We printed a picture of geese heading into the distance, each

holding bits of designer string in its beak Nine years later, where have they gone? Results are not unimpressive and deserve more than a congratulatory quack. It is certainly possible to end up with a notable patte d'oie after seven years, but you are more likely to do so if you avoid the mistakes I have

made along the way. One is visual, one is horticultural and one is best described as sod's law.

The visual mistake is to choose too many different varieties of tree. There is little advice on the matter because the designers of these old schemes were more interested in geometry than plantsman-ship. I opted for a central avenue of hornbeam, two adjoining avenues of flowering pear and two outer avenues of the finely berried Sorbus Joseph Rock. I was most confident about the Sorbus but it has turned out to be the main

Planters of these formal avenues should choose two types of tree at most one for the central avenue, one for the other four. Otherwise, the contrasts of leaf, shape and size are too distracting. No sooner had I planted 50 expensive Sorbus than I heard an apocalyptic lecture at the RHS. The speaker said Sorbus Joseph Rock was a big health risk and would attract fireblight into every garden in south England by the early 1990s, spreading it

to all forms of fruit tree. These forms, I concluded. would embrace my flowering

Gardening / Robin Lane Fox Flight of fancy and removed all but two of the Sorbus. Anyway, their leaves were too distracting in a

ing types of tree.
Since then, the surviving Sorbus have grown splendidly and show no trace of fireblight. I am, however, glad that I replaced them with flowering pears so that four of the five avenues now present a uniform type of leaf and branch I urge future imitators to exercise similar restraint but I would be even more glad about my results if the nurserymen had provided me with the same type of pear in their various

Three rogue trees have intruded, ultimately from Bel-gium, none of which resembles its neighbours. Always make sure that your trees derive from a single source and are

Pears now predominate and, although I picked their variety from a book, I recommend it unreservedly for the purpose. I chose Pyrus Chanticleer, which is said to have glossy green leaves, snow-white flowers in spring, an upright habit, a long season and excellent autumn colour.

cleers in their third season when a distinguished fellow gardening correspondent told me at the president's lunch at Chelsea Flower Show that they were a beastly sort of tree with a stiff, ugly shape. I have been waiting for the ugliness to develop but I think that he was generalising and forgetting the use to which I have put them Their upright shape, like a small poplar, is ideal for an

avenue where they are spaced about 3 yards apart and clipped once each spring. They respond well to clipping and after year five, their top growth thickens and loses the rather



coarse suckering appearance which might otherwise put you off. They then improve and do, indeed, give you 10 months of interest for very little effort.

The showers of white flower have appeared in late January in mild winters but have only just opened in this late spring. The leaves have a shiny coating which reflects the sunlight most prettily as the summer advances. As a result, the avenues are never dull and tired and in November they turn the colour of an old-fashioned academic colleague long enhanced by decades of port. Pyrus Chanticleer is now more than cess in avenues which are

about 60 yards long. The central hornbeams are also successful but they have one more serious disadvantage. I bought the best-known Fastigiate form, expecting that it would grow vertically and not try to bush sideways with an overpowering girth. Actually, this Fastigiate hornbeam is only half-true to its title. Mature hornbeams make widespreading canopies like a broad lollipop and the socalled upright form can be sim-

Every May, I have to clip mine quite hard to stop them losing the outline of an upright

exclamation mark. When clipped, they are satisfactory. although their leaves are a very strong lime green when they first open and are slower to appear than the more muted foliage of the pear.

Since I planted them, a truly upright hornbeam has crept on to the market called Carpinus Betulus Columnaris, I have added one or two specimens to watch their progress and they are certainly thinner and more

I am thankful, at present that I did not choose them instead of the common variety because they seem to be slower growing and need to be spaced more closely. On the long view, however, they would be a sensible choice, although stocks are still small and the only two suppliers could not furnish a

rush of readers' avenues.
The net result of this experiment is that I have three highly impressive avenues, one of bulging hornbeam and two of glistening pears, and by 1998 I will have two more mature avenues of the same pear which will have replaced the Sorbus.

I can already see that the effect is so bold that it draws the eye away from the acre or so of flower-gardening in the foreground, and sometimes this distraction is a mercy.

Anyone who has a garden which slopes away from the eye and runs off into an expanse of wild, open grass should consider an avenue-pattern, whether or not the fivefold scheme of an expensive goose-foot appeals to them. No doubt, mine will catch fireblight in time for the millennium but meanwhile I have to pronounce it a success.

Maybe geese like to eat pears but my sham goose pattern does not produce proper fruit. Pyrus Chanticleer has many virtues as a clipped avenue but the production of soft, sweet fruit is unfortunately not one of them. To be fair, somebody would have to pick them and as they rise steadily to the sky. harvesting would be a real

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SECTION 1

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M AMSTERDAM

31-20-6271161

AUCTION Sotheby's Amsterdam Tel: 31-20-5502200 19th Century European Paintings:

highlights of this sale include works by Floris Amizenius, Henriette Ronner, Bernardus Johannes Blommers and Eugène Boudin; 10.30am & 2pm; Apr 16 CONCERT Beure van Berlage Tel:

 Nederlands Philharmonisch Orkest; with conductor Hartmut Haenchen, soprano Ellen Schuring. mezzo-soprano Caren van Oijen, tenor Thomas Dewald and bass Klaus Mertens perform works by Mozart and Bruckner; 8.15pm; Apr 18, 20 Concertgebouw Tel: 31-20-5730573 Koninklijk Concertgebouworkest: with conductor Riccardo Chailly and pianist Radu Lupu perform works by J.S. Bach/Webern, Mozart and

Stravinsky; 8.15pm; Apr 17, 18 Nieuw Sinfonietta Amsterdam: with conductor Lev Markiz and tenor Mark Tucker perform Schoenberg's Verklärte Nacht and Britten's Les Huminations; 11am; Apr 21 DANCE Het Muziekthaeter Tel:

31-20-5518117 Radical Graham: performance by the Martha Graham Dance Company. The programme includes Robert Wilson's Snow on the Mesa - Portratt of Martha and Martha Graham's choreographies Lamentation, Sketches from Chronicle and Maple Leaf Rag; 8.15pm; Apr 17, 18

M ANTWERP

CONCERT De Vlaamse Opera Tei: 32-3-2336808 Anna Maria Dur: accompanied by

planist Hendrik Derolez, The mezzo-sopreno performs songs by Wagner and Liezt; Apr 24 Koningin Elisabethzael Tel: 32-3-2024662 Het Koninklijke Fitharmonische Orkest van Vlaanderen: with

conductor Grant Liewellyn and planist Gerhard Oppitz perform De Boeck's Symphony in G, and Brahma' Tragic Overture and Plano Concerto No.1; 8pm; Apr 19

ATHENS (USA) EXHIBITION

Georgia Museum of Art Tel: 1-708-542-3255 Tiffany Glass from the Collection of the Late Dr Edward L McConnell: derived from the collection of the late Dr Edward L. McConnell and his wife Helen of Atlanta, this exhibition of 20 objects concentrates on the McConnell's rare Tiffany pleces; including a complete deak set, floral vases and large lamps. The show is one of the inaugural exhibitions to be held in the new building of the Georgia Museum of Art in the Performing and Visual Arts Complex: from Apr 14 to Aug 25

BARCELONA CONCERT

Palau de la Música Catalana Tel: 34-3-2681000 José Carreras: accompanied by planist Lorenzo Bavaj. The tenor performs songs by Bizet, Puccini and Massenet; 9pm; Apr 22

E BERLIN

CONCERT Konzerthaus Tel: 49-30-203090 Moscow Soloists: with conductor/ viola-player Yuri Bashmet perform works by Dvořák, Britten, Stravinsky and Prokofiev; 8pm; Apr 16 Philharmonie & Kammermusiksaal Tel: 49-30-2614383

Berliner Philharmonischer

Orchester: with conductor Claudio Abbado and cellist Ludwig Quandt perform works by Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich and Prokofiev; 8pm; Apr 19, 20 (7pm), 21 (11am), 22 Christoph Eschenbach and Tzimon Barto: the pianists perform works by R. Schumann/Debussy, Ravel and Messizen; 8pm; Apr 16 DANCE

Staatsoper Unter den Linden Tel: 49-30-2082861 Ballett Unter den Linden: perform Helge Musial's Sechs Tänze to music by Borg, Maryse Delente's Maries Zimmer to music by Wagner and Jorma Uotinen's Marie, er und ich to music by Pintscher, 7pm; Apr 20, 22, 23, 24

OPERA Deutsche Oper Berlin Tel: 49-30-3438401 Aida: by Verdi. Conducted by Maurizio Barbacini and performed by the Deutsche Oper Berlin. Soloists include Szönyi, Fernandez, May and Molsberger; 7pm; Apr 21

Lucia di Lammermoor: by Donizetti. Conducted by Marcello Viotti and performed by the Deutsche Oper Berlin, Soloists include Manuel Lanza, Lucia Alberti, Alberto Cupido and Volker Horn; 7.30pm; Apr 24, 27

e Bologna

OPERA Teatro Comunale di Bologna Tel: 39-41-529901 • Federa: by Gierdano, Conducted by Daniel Oren and performed by the Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Soloists Include Mirella Freni, Sergoj Larin and Sylvia Greenberg; 8.30pm; Apr 23,

BIPMINGHAM

Symphony Half Tel: 44-121-2123333 Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra:

INTERNATIONAL ARTS GUIDE



From the Chassis auction in New York: Helienistic Polychrome Terrecotta Horses, 3rd century BC

with conductor Neema Järvi performs Sibelius' Symphony No.7 In C, Symphony No.3 In C and Symphony No.5 in E flat; 2.30pm; Apr 21 José Carreras: accompanied by pianist Lorenzo Bavaj. The tenor performs songs by Scarlatti, . Bononcani, Tosti, Verdi, Zandonel Leoncavallo and Puccini; 7.30pm; Apr

BONN OPERA

Oper der Stadt Bonn Tel: -228-7281 Queen of Spades: by Tchalkovsky. Conducted by Alexander Lazarev and performed by the Oper Bonn. Soloists include Spaho, Jugovic, Atlantov and

Schwetchenko; 4pm; Apr 21

BOSTON

CONCERT Boston Symphony Hall Tel: 1-617-266-1492 Boston Sympheny Orchestra: with conductor Bernard Haitink and violinist Pamela Frank perform works by Ravei, Stravinsky and R. Strauss; 8pm; Apr 18, 19 (1.30pm), 20, 23

EXHIBITION Museum of Fine Arts Tel: 1-617-267-9300 Object as Insight: Japanese Buddhist Art and Ritual: this exhibition juxtaposes Japanese Buddhist painting and sculpture with temple adomments, ritual objects and salons of monks to illustrate the orucial relationship between Buddhist

ritual and art; from Apr 19 to Jun 30

BRUSSELS ...

Théâtre Royal de la Monnale Tel: 32-2-2291200 Palicas et Maisande: by Debussy Conducted by Antonio Pappano and performed by La Monnaie. Soloists nolude Laurence Dale, Maria Bayo, Monte Pederson and Nathelle Stutzmenn; 8pm; Apr 21, 23, 26

E CARDIFF

CONCERT St David's Hall Tel: 44-1222-878444 Welsh National Opera's 50th Anniversary Gala Concert: former musical directors James Lockhart, Richard Armstrong and Sir Charles Mackerras join the present musical director Carlo Rizzi and head of music Julian Smith to conduct the Orchestra and Chorus of Welsh National Opera and more than 30 guest singers in a celebration concert; 7.30pm; Apr 20

COPENHAGEN OPERA

Det Kongelige Teater Tel: 45-33 14 10 02 Die Entführung aus dem Serail: by Mozart. Conducted by Andrew

Greenwood and performed by the Royal Danish Opera. Soloists include Lena Nordin, Djina Mai-Mal and John Laursen; 8pm; Apr 22, 25

DRESDEN

OPERA Sächsische Staatsoper Dresden Tel: 49-351-49110 La Cenerentola: by Rossinl Conducted by John Flore and performed by the Sächsische Staatsoper. Soloists include Vivica Genaux, Roxana Incontrera, Elisabeth Wilke and Werner Güra; 7pm; Apr 19, 21, 26

DUBLIN

JAZZ & BLUES National Concert Hall - Geoláras Náisiúnta Tel: 353-1-6711888 Herbie Hancock Quartet: led by iazz-pianist and composer Herbie Hancock; 8pm; Apr 17

DUSSELDORF CONCERT

Tonhalle Düsseldorf Tel: 49-211-8992081 Düsseldorfer Symphoniker: with conductor Salvador Mas Conde, narrator Eckhard Leue and accordionist Edwin Alexander Buchholz perform Beethoven's Symphony No.7 in A major, Op.92 and Roberto Gerhard's Die Pest; 8pm; Apr 25, 26 Tzimon Barto and Christoph Eschenbach: the planists perform works by R. Schumann/Debussy, Ravel and Messiaen; 8pm; Apr 20

EDINBURGH EXHIBITION

National Gallery of Scotland Tel: 44-131-5568921 From Brueghel to Rubens: exhibition of 16th- and 17th-century Flemish drawings. In this period art in Flanders was actively encouraged in support of the militant Catholicism of the Counter-Reformation which enrolled artists such as Rubens, Van

Dvck, De Craver and Jordaens for huge numbers of religious works. But the exhibition shows drawings made for a wide variety of purposes. Also included are tapestry cartoons, studies from life, as well as designs for altarpleces, books, prints and Jan Gossaert's design for a stained-glass window; to Apr 17

GLASGOW CONCERT

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall Tel: Anne-Sophie Mutter and Lambert Orkis: the violinist and planist perform works by Brahms, Bartók, Beethoven, Sarasate and Wienlawski; Spm; Apr

KAMBURG **OPERA**

Hamburgische Steatsoper Tel: 49-40-351721 Il Barbiere di Siviglia: by Rossini, Conducted by Antonello Allemandi and performed by the Hamburg Oper. Soloists include Raul Gimenez, Ning Liang and Dmitri Hvorostovsky; 7.30pm; Apr 24, 27

MELSINKI

OPERA Opera House Tel; 358-0-403021 Tosca: by Puccini. Conducted by Karl Tikks and performed by the Helsinki Opera. Soloists include Pirkko Tornqvist, Antonio Ordonez (Apr 18, 20), Peter Lindroos (Apr 27), Esa Ruutunen and Hannu Forsberg; 7pm; Apr 18, 20, 27

M HOUSTON EXHIBITION

The Mentil Collection Tel: 1-713-525-9400 Georges Rousuit: exhibition of works by Georges Rousuit including 75 paintings, works on paper, and objects drawn primarily from The Menii Collection holdings. The religious painter Georges Rousult-(1871-1958) was a Catholio of deep persuasion who reacted against pompous academism and developed his own style - a combination of expressionism and refined primitivism harking back to the early Middle Ages, stained glass techniques and Oriental brush painting; from Apr 25 to Aug 18

M USBON CONCERT

Grande Auditório de Fundação Gulbenkian Tel: 351-1-7935131 Orquestra Gulbenklan: with conductor Jordi Savall perform works by Beethoven, Arriaga, Schubert and endelssohn; 9.30pm; Apr 18, 19 (6.30pm)

I LONDON CONCERT

Barbican Hall Tel: 44-171-6388891 Anne-Sophie Mutter and Lambert Orkis: the violinist and pianist perform works by Brahms, Bartók, Beethoven and Sarasate; 7.30pm; Apr 19 The London Symphony Orchestra: with conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, planist Jean-Yves Thibaudet and the London Symphony Chorus perform works by Stravinsky and Ravel; 3.30pm; Apr 21

Royal Albert Hall Tel: 44-171-5898212 Royal Philharmonic Orchestra: with conductor Yehudi Menuhin, the Yehudi Menuhin School Orchestra. the Voices Foundation, violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter, bass Samuel

Ramey and conductor/cellist Mistislar Rostropovich perform works by Tchalkovsky, Mozart and Elgar, 7pm; Apr 20 EXHIBITION Royal Academy of Arts Tel: 44-171-4397438

 Frederic, Lord Leighton 1830-1896: A Centennial Exhibition: retrospective exhibition of the work of Leighton, president of the Royal

the Victorian painter Frederic, Lord Academy from 1878 until his death in 1896. The exhibition consists of about 60 paintings, accompanied by a group of sketches and drawings, and 40 landscape oil sketches; to Apr 21 THEATRE Olivier Theatre Tel: 44-171-9282252

The Prince's Play: Victor Hugo's

Le Rol S'Amuse in a new translation by Tony Harrison, Directed by Richard Eyre and performed by the Royal National Theatre. The cast includes Michael Bryant, Ken Scott and June Watson; 7.15pm; Apr 20 (also 2pm), 22, 26, 27 (also 2pm)

LOS ANGELES

EXHIBITION The J. Paul Getty Museum Tel: 1-310-459-7611 Ten Centuries of French Blumination: an exhibition of 20 manuscripts and single illuminated pages, presenting a survey of French painting in books, from the 9th to the

18th century. It includes richly illuminated scripture, liturgical and devotional books and bestiaries, as well as elaborate emblems of the nobility. Jean Fouquet and Simon Marmion are among the 15th-century Illuminators represented; from Apr 23 to Jul 7

MADRID

EXHIBITION Fundación Juan March Tel: 34-1-4354240 Tom Wesselmann: retrospective exhibition devoted to the North American Pop artist. His preference for the big format, the important role of drawing in his work, and the exaltation of everyday life are some of the constant features in Wesselman's art. The display includes some 90 works; to Apr 21

MUNICH CONCERT

Philharmonie Im Gastelg Tel: 49-89-48098625 Münchner Philhamoniker: with conductor Serglu Celibidache and planiat Radu Lupu perform works by Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert;

8pm; Apr 21 (11am), 22, 23, 24 EXHIBITION Haus der Kunst Tel: 49-89-211270 Corot, Courbet und die Maler von Berbizon. Les amis de la Nature: exhibition devoted to the Barbizon school, a group of mid-19th-century landscape painters who settled in the village of Barbizon in the forest of Fontainebleau and were the forerunners of the impressionists. The exhibition includes 300 paintings, drawings, watercolours and prints by Barya, Corot, Daubigny, Decamps, Diaz, Dupré, Huet, Jacque, Millet, Rousseau, Troyon and Courbet; to Apr 21

MEW YORK

AUCTION Sotheby's Tel: 1-212-606-7000 Property from the Estate of Jacqueline Kennedy Onessis: auction of 1,200 lots of fine and decorative art, furniture, jewellery, antiquities and books which have come predominantly from Onassis' New York spartment where she lived from 1964 to 1994; 10am & 2pm; Apr 23 (7.30pm), 24 (also 6pm), 25 (also CONCERT

Alice Tully Hall Tel: 1-212-875-5050 Anne Sofie von Otter: accompanied by planist Bengt Forsberg. The mezzo-soprano performs songs by Grieg, Koch, Stenhammer, Peterson-Berger, Schubert and R. Strauss; 2pm; Apr

Avery Fisher Half Tel: 1-212-875-5030 Maxim Vengerov and Itamar Golan: the violinist and planist perform works by Mozart, Beethoven, Prokofiev and Shostakovich; 3pm; Apr 21

Carnegie Hail Tel: 1-212-247-7800 Pinchas Zukerman and Marc Neikrug: the violinist and planfst perform Beethoven's sonatas Nos. 5. 6 and 7; 8pm; Apr 18 **EXHIBITION**

The Pierpont Morgan Library Tel: 1-212-685-0008 A Great Heritage: Renaissance and Baroque Drawings from Chatsworth: exhibition of 103 drawings, mostly from Italian artists. lay includes works by Domenico Ghirlandalo, Leonardo de Vinci and Andrea del Sarto; to Apr

OPERA Metropolitan Opera House Tel: 1-212-362-6000

 Andrea Chénier: by Giordano. Conducted by James Levine and performed by the Metropolitan Opera. Soloists include Aprile Millo, Luciano Pavarotti and Juan Pons; 8pm; Apr 16, 19

III OSAKA CONCERT

Feetival Hall Tel: 6-231-6985 Kyoto Symphony Orchestra: with conductor Michiyoshi Inoue and soloist Mas Ikemiya perform works by Ravel, Gershwin and Tovama: 7pm: Apr 22

 Orchestre National de France: with conductor Charles Dutoit and pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet perform works by Berlioz, Rachmaninov and Mahler: 7pm; Apr 24

PARIS CONCERT

Satte Pleyel Tel: 33-1 45 61 53 00 Orchestre de Paris: with conductor Kurt Sanderling and cellist Anne Gastinel perform Haydn's Symphony No.39 in G minor, R. Schumann's Cello Concerto in A major, Op.129 and Brahms' Symphony No.3 in F major, Op.90; 8.30pm; Apr 17.

Théâtre des Champs-Elysées Tel: 33-1 49 52 50 50

 Freiburger Barockorchester: with conductor Gustav Leonhardt perform works by Zelenka, Telemann and Rameau; 8.30pm; Apr 15 Théâtre du Châtelet Tel: 33-1 42 33 00 00

 Staatskapelle Berlin: with conductor/planist Daniel Barenboim, soprano Laura Alkin, tenor Peter Schreier and bass Rene Pape perform

hoven's Fantasy for piano, choir and orchestra in C minor, Op.80 and Christus am Olberge, Op.85; 8pm;

EXHIBITION Galeries Madonales du Grand Palale Tel: 33-1 44 13 17 17 Les années romantiques 1815-1850: exhibition of 180 paintings and watercolours by French artists, created between 1815 and

1850. The display includes works by 130 artists such as Ingres, Delacroix, Géricault, Corot, Millet and Courbet; from Apr 19 to Jul 15 N ROME

CONCERT Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia Tel: 39-6-3611064 Deutsche Kammerohilharmonie Bremen: with conductor/violinist Gidon Kremer, violinist Tatiana Drindenko and pianist Vadim Sakharov perform works by Shostakovich, Mende 6.30pm; Apr 20

SAN FRANCISCO

CONCERT Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall Tet: 1-415-864-6000 Anne Sofie von Otter: accompanied by pianist Bengt Forsberg. The mezzo-soprano performs songs by Grieg, Von Koch, Schubert, Stenhammer, Peterson-Berger and R. Strauss; 8pm; Apr 17 Montserrat Caballé: recital by the soprano. The programme include: operatic arias, Spanish songs and zarzuelas; 7pm; Apr 21 EXHIBITION

SFMOMA - Museum of Modern Art Tel: 1-415-357-4000 Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, and Mexican Modernism from the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection: the Jacques and Natasha Beiman Collection of modern Mexican painting spans the years 1915-1989 and includes works from such artists as Frida Kahlo, Gunther Gerzso, José Clements Orozco, Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siquieros, Rufino Tamayo and Angel Zárraga. The display includes 56 works; from Apr 16 to Sep 8

E STOCKHOLM

CONCERT Stookholms Konserthueet Tel: 48-8-7860200 Kunglige Hovkepeliet with conductor Leif Segerstam and organist Erik Lundkvist perform works

by Brahms, Mendelssohn and

Bruckner; 3pm; Apr 21 SYDNEY

CONCERT Concert Hall Tel: 61-2-250-7111 The Australian Brandenburg Orchestra Ensemble: with conductor Paul Dyer and soprano Emma Kirkby perform works by J.S. Bach and Handel; 8.15pm; Apr 23 EXHIBITION

Museum of Contemporary Art (Inc. Power Gallery of Contemporary Art) Tel: 61-2-241-5876 Louise Bourgeois: exhibition of early and recent sculptures and a selection of drawings by this French-born artist, who has fived in New York since 1939. Bourgeois focuses in her art on the themes of sexuality, feminism, the body and the family: to Apr 14

E VIENNA

CONCERT Konzerthaus Tel: 43-1-7121211 Camerata Academica: with conductor Sándor Végh and planist Zoltán Kocsis perform Haydn's Symphony No.30 in C major (Alleluja) and Symphony No.93 in D major, and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.4 in G major, Op.58; 7,30pm; Apr 15,

Musikverein Tel: 43-1-5058681 Bengt-Ake Lundin: the pianist performs works by Mozart, Frumerie, Liszt, Ravel and Rechmaninov; 3.30pm; Apr 21
Orchestre Philharmonique de

Radio France: with conductor Marek Janowski and pianist François-René Duchable perform works by Fauré, Ravel, Roussel and Debussy, 7.30pm; Apr 17, 18 OPERA Wiener Staatsoper Tel: 43-1-514442960

 Ariadne auf Naxos: by R. Strauss. Conducted by Horst Stein and performed by the Wiener Staatsoner. Soloists include Ann Murray, Edita Gruberova and Gabriela Benackova-Cap; 7.30pm; Apr 20,

M WASHINGTON CONCERT

Concert Hall Tel: 1-202-467 4600 Israel Philharmonic Orchestra: with conductor Zubin Mehta and violinist Gil Shaham perform Tchaikovsky's Andante cantabile, Violin Concerto and Symphony No.5; 3pm; Apr

M ZURICH

CONCERT Tonhalle Tel: 41-1-2063434 Brindisi Quartet: perform works by Purcell, Britten and Bartók; 7.30pm; Apr 21

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CHESS

Ba4 Bc5 5 0-0 Nf6 6 c3 Simpler is 6 Nxe5 Nxe5 7 d4. Ba7 7 Re1 Many chess writers counsel against opening traps on the grounds that easy wins encour-age a superficial approach to Ng4?! 8 d4 exd4 9 cxd4? Falling for it; 9 h3 is correct, but most strategy. This may be right for club players would make the experts and ambitious juniors, obvious recapture. but if your chess has to be played after a hard day or 11 Be3 is a lesser evil, though Qxh2+ 12 Kf1 Qh1+ 13 Ke2 week at the office, quick victories are a time and energy Qxg2 gives three pawns and a strong attack for the knight. saver as well as a boost to

The Russian master lakov

Neistadt has written Winning Quickly with White (Cadogan 160 pages, pb £10.99) with 100 games, each lasting a maximum 18 moves. Games are arranged under openings with full commentaries and a companion volume, Winning Quickly with Black, has the same format. The production is good, with large print and a diagram almost every page, while the victories range from 19th century classies to today. Both books are excellent value for average players. At worst, you will improve your alertness for basic tactics and early opportunities; at best, you may repeat a brilliancy where all the loser's moves are

plausible. This week's game

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4

DOOLS IN

has occurred at least four closer, and White has a hidden times in tournament play (Katskova-Kakabadze, 1962, Ruy Solution Page II

Leonard Barden

White to play and draw. This

endgame by G. Kasparyan, a renowned Armenian composer

who died recently, seems lost after 1 Kf7 h5 and the WK can-

not catch the pawn. Look

BRIDGE

A double game swing occurs on those rare occasions when a team scores game at both tables on the same deal. Usually, the contracts are four hearts by North-South and four spades by East-West, for example, but on the following hand, reported recently at an Ameri-can regional Swiss Teams tournament, the contract was three no trumps at both tables.

♣ Q 7 ♥ A Q 10 8 4 3 2 ♦96 ♥J95 ♦ KQJ1062 ▲ J 10 5 4 KQJ762 At one table, North opened one heart. South made an artificial

one-round force of one no trump, and West intervened

with two spades. Over North's

three hearts, South ventured

three no trumps. West had no reason to know that a diamond lead would beat the contract and started with king and another spade.

Declarer played a club to the king, won by West who per-sisted with spades. Declarer finished with two spades, two hearts, a diamond and five clubs. Had West ducked the king of clubs, declarer would have turned to the heart suit, making six bearts after finessing and clearing the suit, plus one in each of the three suits. At the other table, North-South again contested up to

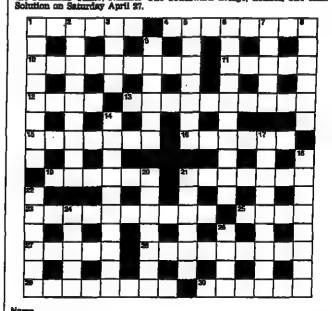
was West who closed proceedings with three no trumps. A low heart lead would have prevailed but North tried the heart queen hoping, not unrea-sonably, to pin the jack of hearts in dummy or to find declarer with king and jack alone. Three no trumps was now unbeatable as the cards lay, and West emerged with 11

three hearts but this time it

John Williams

CROSSWORD

No. 9,042 Set by DINMUTZ A prize of a classic Pellian Souverin 900 fountain pen for the first correct solution opened and five runner-up prizes of 235 Pelikan vouchers. Solutions by Wednesday April 24, marked Crossward 9,042 on the envelope, to the Financial Times, Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on Saturday April 27.



 Telling of one term from another? (9)
 Steady, brisk pace of David Copperfield to Aunt Betsey ACROES Gold pieces in eye-sockets (6) Wraps the issue up (8)
 Small child stirring cool tea, a deep brown colour (9)
 Powerful spirit released by light rubber? (5) 5 One who gratifies king in

12 Artificial spinning balt for lake and river (4) 13 Advocate, keen, is talking spitefully (10)
15 Box shaping, for example? (7)
16 Holiday in bay (6) 15 Box shaping, for example: (7)
16 Holiday in bay (6)
19 Countless number in my first

5 Hammer that is large (we small over border) (6)
19 Complaint of boy in spring.

19 Countless number in my make diary, possibly (6)
21 Copper is in orient for the cooking style (7)
23 Likely customer at ring-road is one looking for petroleum (10)

14 Simple taps rectified scratched old record (10)
15 Barking people need such protective gear (9)
16 Generator, for example, in lements of housing (8) improved housing (8) 20 Announce real change after

25 Fuzzy, losing head, in fever (4)
27 Fat old boy to see badly (5)
28 He attacks with salt, as in 2
21 Particular little house in snug setting (6)
22 Pal sick? Ring doctor with shaker (9) 29 Sees red whiskers (8) 30 Large, smooth rock said to be confidence! (6) 24 Daggers drawn from robe

I Kiss very large copper at the 26 This princess of Tyre failed to last minute (8) Solution 9,041

grittier (6)

ADAMANT ARBUTER

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act (4) Solution 9,032 HIA PPYGOLUCKY BACECOURSE WEAR
DABS ABSCONDING
I C I A
SNOWBALL INPUT
ANDIRON TIEPOLO
C E S C A E V M
SNAKECHARMER

6 Boxer's reward? (3-7)

7 l take a breather first in a loincloth (5)

8 Hammer that is large (or

WINNERS 8,032: Keith Collyer, Wantage, Oxon; R. Fryer, Crail, Fife, P.J. Hadoulis, New York; Paul and Sandy Coleman, Berkhamsted, Herts; P. Pakenham, London SW3; M. Djanogly, London N2







James Morgan

Jobs ain't what they used to be

Reform in the labour market will give rise to powerful losers and some unimpressive winners

market today rarely disappoints those who do well out of it. The unhappy employment scene in Europe has promoted political stability and ministers often keep their jobs for a decade or more.

The British deputy prime minis-ter, Michael Heseltine, says we cannot expect the market to reflect our changing demands if we are not prepared to change in line with its demands. Maybe Mr Heseltine reflects my changing demands. maybe not. In continental Europe the politicians promise to keep everything as it is, thereby provid-ing the one unchanging point in an ever-changing world.

what they call a "portfolio of jobs".
which is fine if your portfolio includes a visiting professorship. part-time consultancies and writing best sellers. If it should comprise packing supermarket bags, driving unlicensed cabs and helping bloodstained car-wreck victims into accident wards, life will seem less

today is like an actor's career short-term engagements and no repeats. But 90 per cent of actors are out of work.

The much derided European model represents a successful attempt on the part of the employed to fight the trend. A French paper wrote last week:

"Europe offers a framework where one may have less fear of the future." In a study last year for the Centre for Economic Policy Research, a French economist, Gilles Saint-Paul, noted that this employment model is designed to achieve political stability, not equity as its proponents like to believe. The labour market is organised so that up to 90 per cent They also say the job market of the labour force prospers and can expect to be quite well cared

for in the event of losing a job. Any reform will give rise to a owerful coalition of losers and a rather unimpressive group of winners. The lesson is that European rigidities are what keeps nations together. In the US, on the other hand, these rigidities are absent as is the European sense of national cohesion. Saint-Paul believes social breakdown has been avoided by creating a political system in which the poor do not vote and in which political parties that might have articulated their interests have been made illegal.

It might be noted too that the US has few institutions to mediate between the citizen and the central government. No social partners, no unified education system, no national health service. The federal structure permits 50 states to go their own way in areas where other countries have single administrations. The states can act as social laboratories. Since there are few "national" structures, the US is not weighed down by a myriad institu-

usefulness. All other successful societies eventually fall prey to the systems which once ensured their success. German consensus provided the driving force for reconstruction, it has now become an end in itself and an obstacle to nec-

essary change. The dynamic "tiger" economies boom today because they are building on nothing. But, though we not see it, they are also building their own traditions which will eventually have to be chucked out while elder statesmen, and their electorates (if any) noistly ask: What would Lee Kuan Yew say?" It is very easy for them to be flexible at this stage of their develop-

Britain went through a series of crises this century which gave a false impression of the relative success of its national institutions. The smashing of these institutions in the 1980s occurred under a government which relied more than most on a nationalist credo. Thus national cohesion was more or less sustained even while the structures which once underpinned it were

dismantled. In the rest of western Europe the rigidities have been reinforced. They will remain in place so long as most people benefit from them. And they still do. That is why, as Saint-Paul points out, labour markets remain unreformed

■ James Morgan is BBC Warld Service economics correspondent.

no more than that," he said gestur-

When he was called to the phone

I took the chance to rest my hand,

exhausted from taking notes. On his

return, he repeated that Germany

would be the only country pressing

Meanwhile, we shared another

pot of tea. This time, he poured the

milk. Then he talked about fears

within Germany - about Turkish

immigration, unemployment, pen-

sion funds. "The EU is a complete

example of contradiction driven by

Cash's metamorphosis from an

acknowledged pro-European to the leader of the Maastricht rebellion

posed a question. Was it to gain

popularity, as some had suggested?

But he was not laughing. Indeed, he

was angry.

Before he could portray another

picture of a disastrous united

Surope, I asked how much money he and the European Foundation, an institution founded by him to

campaign against Maastricht, spent. He did not know "for obvious rea-

He explained: "There are four

employees and three volunteers in the foundation." He added: "We do

have access to some very fine

So did he think the British system

was the right one for Europe?
"The British model with some

modifications, yes. Party lists are good, but the whips system is too

strong." At that point, it became

clear to me that his love for British-

ness more than anything else

"I say what most people in the

Conservative party think," he

assured me. "The only thing I have

is my determination and my politi-

I asked him to sum up his point of

view: "Trade is fine, giving away

sovereignty is not."

One of his favourite sayings was:
"I'm just a backbencher." This

leaves him at least four hours a day

to campaign against Maastricht. Still, he considers himself to be a good European. "Being against a

political union is positive for

Europe. I'm being pro-European."

I commented on his bright red

braces and he smiled and proudly pointed to the label on his tie: Otto

Kern, a German brand. Cash said he

bought another tie in Hamburg.

Every time he went abroad he

would buy a tie. "I also have French

and Spanish ties."

I asked if he thought himself to be

a typical British conservative.
"Yes, I'm very typically English. I
live in an Elizabethan manor house

and have traditional interests," he

said proudly. He mentioned that he

was a Catholic and a good Euro-

Then he pointed out his strong

German connections, this time concarning his property.

"The ambassador from Hanover lived in my house. Prince Rupert of Rhineland stayed there. You can't

get a closer British-German rela-tionship."

cal will." Of which he has plenty.

fuelled his rebellion.

he assured me.

"That's laughable. That's a joke."

theory," he concluded.

ing with both hands.

for Maastricht.

Interview

The MP with Anglo-German ties

Leading Eurosceptic Bill Cash explains his view of Europe to Cordelia Becker

an experienced Eurosceptic, an outspoken opponent of the Maastricht treaty and said to be suspicious of all things German. How would he react to a German journalist entering his home territory - the central lobby at Westminster?

He quickly spotted me and led me energetically towards the crowded House of Commons tearoom, where I was to conduct my interview. He immediately started talking.

We found a table and Cash squeezed his 6ft 4in frame behind it. ordering sandwiches and tea. With his grey hair, brown spectacles, gold signet ring on the small finger of his left hand and striped grey suit, he looked every inch a friendly bank manager. Certainly, he seemed very British to me.

He had become so famous that his wife Biddy, who manages his diary, could only get me an appointment for tea. The British custom suited

He continued talking and I found it a relief that he clearly did not mind discussing his alleged hatred of Germans with a German journalist. He has been quoted as saying such things as "I do not want a German Europe", and has made speeches against "Germany's bold masterplan" and its "self-interest".

The MP for Stafford never minds 240 amendments he has proposed in the Commons and told me: "I voted 47 times against the Maastricht treaty - more than anybody else. In 1991 he was "offered a little job to stlence me". He refused and has fought since against the influence of the European Union.

I hardly had time to ask what he meant by a "German Europe", when he swiftly moved on to his greater likelihood of nationalism through Europe," he lectured.
I poured the tea for us which

seemed to please him. "Germans do not want to lose the D-Mark," he stated, leaning back, now relaxed. I used the second in which he drew breath to remark that Kohl actually favours the euro. "Well, they would still rule it," he claimed. "Germany has been telling the other countries what to do."

Cash feels there is a difference between Germans and their politicians. "I think German people have a far more down-to-earth view than their politicians. The politicians would make sure that European interests equal German interests." Then he was back on the Maas-

tricht treaty - "an object lesson in not listening" is one of his descrip-

I asked him why a federal Europe would be so evil. "Federalism does not work." But it works fairly well in Germany and was generally supported by the people, I pressed. "It's

flanks shuddering. No, it's not the last stampede of

the infected British beef herd on its

way to the knacker's yard. This is

the annual eruption of an inexplica-

ble, self-inflicted derangement of

the human nervous system which

doctors call curromania nervosa lon-

dinensis and what the rest of us

The infection grows by the year.

There were a mere 6,700 starters for

the very first run in 1981. For next

Sunday's stampede no fewer than

68,000 people put down their names

for 27,000 available places. It is

more than an infection; it is an epi-

demic. More worrying still, it is a

psychological epidemic, like a cult

know as The London Marathon.

ere they come again:

sweating, jostling, stum-

bling, groaning, eyes

rolling, chests heaving,



Bill Cast: 'Maastricht le worse then Versailles

party list system," Cash retorted. He became international, "It had not worked in Canada ... the single currency didn't prevent the civil war in the US...The Maastricht treaty is a human political experi-ment that creates a kind of Frankenstein." And he was back on to

Cash once said the second world war had the strongest impact on his political beliefs; his father died near

Caen in 1944. I asked him if he saw Kohl as a new emperor. "His des-tiny is a political union," he replied. He said he did not want to question Kohl's motives but he seemed to have no objection to describing what he saw as typical German features: "Very logical, on the whole hard-working and efficient. They do not have the same democracy" (now

sion. There is a difference in the political procedures. The German system is much weaker, German democracy is much more shallow. It is fundamental to Europe that the British system survives.

The waitress rescued me, offering a tray of neat little cakes. Cash chose Battenburg cake, interrupting his flow only briefly: "I spoke to Tietmeyer for two hours in private."

German celebrities then followed before he returned to his favourite

"We must renegotiate the Maastricht treaty to save Europe from chaos...Versailles they fiddled, this they can't. Maastricht is worse than Versailles, as it turns out." With mouth still full of Battenburg, he added: "I fear for Germany." Cash moved on to his latest 40-page paper which he had just fin-

sons "with a lean and delicate build

of body and large skin surface in comparison with weight. These are the people, you remember, who at school could run 10 miles across

soggy moorland and come back

looking serene and scarcely out of

breath while us short-haul special-

ists crawled to the finishing line

with ghestly grins and heaving

Most of the fanatics I have seen

on the towpath in recent weeks are

plainly endomorphs, which, politely

put, means they are "persons of soft

occurring naturally in the brain and having pain-relieving properties" (Oxford Encylopedic English Dictio-

There you have it. Endorphins are responsible for the free and legal high you get from overdoing it. And judging from all those sto-ries about health club fitness freaks, their broken marriages and lost careers, they are pretty addictive substances.

It is time the government's chief scientific adviser was consulted. Are there no little research outfits in Edinburgh which could put the facts before us? No doubt our ministers would suffer a slight temporary loss of popularity for alerting the nation to the risk. But they are used to that.

Someone must have the guts to speak out against this virulent hysteria which is undermining the physical and moral fibre of our once-proud nation.

Oh, I almost forgot. This year, in case you're interested, I'm running to raise money for Mesomorphs Against Endorphin Abuse.

Peter Aspden is no exam paper



have to face the appalling prospect of a three-hour written examination. It shouldn't be too dif-

ficult. I know my sub-conscious is not alone in throwing this delicate torture into my dream world about once a month, and I fret and sweat through the night, unable to sharpen my pencil because my fingers are made of chipolatas and the baguette is playing the piano too loudly to concentrate.

But imagine you are there, per-vously turning over your examination paper when the gong sounds. You are relaxed, confident. But which question would you rather be answering: one which asked you to discuss the use of landscape in Florentine painting of the Cinquecento or one which demanded an analysis of fictional company accounts for the financial year just ended?

Art or business? Beauty or commerce? Useless knowledge versus life-training skills? Intriguingly, last month's report by Sir Ron Dearing, on 16-19 year olds' qualifications. listed both art and business studies as among the "easiest" A-level subjects to take. Don't ask me about his methodology because it takes up 14 pages of appendix space. (For the record, mathematics, physics and chemistry were the most difficult.)

This is intriguing, because these two subjects represent the opposite ends of the educational debate spectrum. When we ask why we educate our children, we are likely to come down for one or the other. Art: we teach them the intoxicating effects

It does not matter what you teach: what matters is how you go about it

of beauty, in the hope that it will have a civilising, humane effect; or business: we teach them useful skills so that they will be better able to find a job.

Aesthetics versus utility is always an awkward argument to evaluate. There are times in a society's life when one is collectively prized far above the other. When Margaret Thatcher was stiffening the sinews of the body politic during the 1980s. for example, education-for-its-ownsake was put firmly on the defensive. "Relevance" and "contribution to the economy" became the buzzwords; to take three years (or even more) to complete a thesis on Tintoretto's palette was considered frivolous in the extreme, almost

But there was dissent. Was not the word "education" based on the Latin educere, to draw out? Was it not important for students to receive a broad, humanistic infusion of cultural values so that they could play their proper role in soci-

The dissenters' message went largely unheard. Scholastic heresies abounded: universities which lacked a department of philosophy revelled in the expansion of the centre for tourism studies. This was the new realism: equip the young for employment, and the search for truth can go hang itself on its own twisted semantics. But if the jobs aren't there?

British education, particularly at university level, still finds itself locked in this dilemma. But in truth, it does not matter what you teach: what matters is how you go about it. No subject should be taught in an uncritical vacuum, divorced from its context. Art should be assessed in terms of art markets, as well as its own intrinsic worth; business should always be studied with regard to possible alternatives.

That is how we produce a graduate who is both informed and critical: the type of person industry screams out for.

But there is a problem. A friend who is a professor of accounting and finance goes to great lengths to make sure his course is sufficiently rigorous, offering papers in critical accounting and making sure his students understand exactly how accounting and auditing systems are devised and structured. None of his students is interested in taking those papers. They want to do the minimum required to pass their examinations. They want to become chartered accountants as soon as possible. They simply want to know how to do the job. The physicse "Marxist critique" sounds to them like a sad relic from ancient history.

When we sit down with that blank sheet of paper in front of us and just three hours to put down everything we have learnt, perhaps it really is unwise to think too much. But life is not an exam paper, and we would all be better equipped if our heads were filled with more irrelevant nonsense.

End endomorphic lunacy

Christian Tyler believes marathon hysteria is undermining Britain's moral fibre

embrocation, the staggering victims interspersed with strangely attired celebrity exhibitionists.

But for weeks beforehand parks and river walks thoughtfully provided by the city fathers in a kinder age have been polluted with cult members preparing for their ritual. If you walk in their path, they will knock you down rather than stop or step aside. Driven by strange glandular secretions, they are blind to the world, locked in their own private hell, as dangerous as elephants

One would not mind if marathon which is practised in private for madness infected only the athletes most of the year but which for whom the event was obviously demands its annual feast day, its designed (remember: the original ritual mass sacrifice. Marathon Man was no volunteer, If this dreadful festival of sweat were confined to just one day a he was on an important military mission, and paid the supreme year, the rest of us might ignore the clogged streets, the paralysed traf-



But the enthusiasts of today are not athletes. They do not run with spring and bounce. They stumble along, feet barely leaving the ground, arms trailing, faces and legs puce with the punishment they are inflicting on their internal organs and joints. No amount of fancy apparel will persuade me they

the skimpy pink French knickers or the figure-hugging silver Lycra sweatsuits (and that's only the

Running is a serious business and should be done on running tracks. Long-distance running is suitable only for ectomorphs, defined as per-

المعدد من الإعل

an abbreviation from "endogenous morphine", and are defined as "a

round build and high proportion of fat tissue". • Endomorphs should not be confused with the chemical substances that drive them to marathon madness. These are called "endorphins",

group of peptide neurotransmitters

ants Buain, south water its may available on the National

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	The biggest takeover battle
ı	THE PROBLEM NAME OF THE PARTY O
ı	under way in the UK moved
	closer to conclusion this week
	after Rentokil raised its offer
	STATE WATCHEST TRY ON CO
	for rival business services
	group BET to £2.1bn. writes
	group Dat to

Geoff Dyer. Initial indications from the largest institutional investors in BET suggested that the new offer, which was increased by 14p a share, was likely to succeed. But the shareholders said the higher bid, which Rentokil declared final, was not a knock-out blow.

BET rejected the revised offer immediately, claiming that it undervalued the value of the group and its future prospects. Rentokil is still offering nine new shares for every 20 BET, but has increased the cash part of the offer from 28 to £10.

Moreover, it is offering a special dividend to BET share-holders of 4p, compared with the 3.7p final dividend BET

had promised already. BET shareholders also can opt for a cash alternative, which Rentokil increased from 179%p to 202%p. The two groups have yet to meet the largest institutional shareholders in BET and will spend the next two weeks before the offer closes on April 26, trying to persuade them of

BET will emphasise its recent growth record - some-thing which, it claims, has not been recognised by the market. Rentokil will tell shareholders that it has superior management skills which can extract higher profits from

BET's operations.

□ Redland, the building products group, announced an increase in its offer for Ennemix, the aggregates company, from 32p to 35p a share.

The bid, which Redland declared final, values Ennemix

The week ahead

TUESDAY: Aerospace enginecring group Cobham is expected to underline its continued improvement with annual pretax profits of about £30m, against £25.8m (before excep-tionals) in 1994. TUESDAY: Tesco, the UK food

its of around £680m when it

presents full-year figures to the

end of February. WEDNESDAY: Smiths Industries, the aerospace, medical systems and industrial group, is expected to announce a 16 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to about 267m. THURSDAY: Analysts are retailer, is likely to show prof- braced for disappointing growth from SmithKline Beecham in the first-quarter.

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ny Fuller, acceptive chairmen of Fuller Smith & Turner, the brownies group,

Too many heads buried in the sand . . . ?

Clay Harris discovers that an apparent loophole in British law holds the key to why ostrich farmers are having to count their eggs

ostrich egg to hatch. But while investors who bought thousands of birds through the Ostrich Farming Corporation may not have to wait that long to discover the fate of their money, they could find themselves envying the ostrich hen who gets her egg-laying over in 15 straining minutes and then strolls

away.

OFC, the most prominent of a flock of companies offering ostriches as investments, is facing a winding-up petition Trade and Industry. Michael Pugh, the official receiver, has een appointed provisional

The case is due to be heard in the High Court on May 8 and the DIT also has called in the Serious Fraud Office.

The DTT's pre-Easter swoop caught OFC's investors by surprise. Many had bought mature breeding hens for £14,000 (\$21,140) or more, enticed by the company's promise of a "guaranteed" annual return exceeding 51.6 per cent over five years.

The guarantee scheme involved allocating each owner an increasing number of chicks annually and OFC's promise to buy each one back for £500 as a yearling. OFC had been under investi-

gation since November but, in the nature of DTI probes this one was secret and could not be confirmed if anyone asked, More than two-thirds of the ostrich sales took place after the DTI's inquiries

The marketing was slick. OFC laid on five free flights a week to Belgium, where an animal breeding specialist produced and reared the birds on behalf of the owners.

"As soon as you were on board, they were offering you a drink." says Clive Newton, a research scientist who later decided to invest in ostriches through another company.

t takes 42 days for an But whether or not they invested, people who heard the OFC sales pitch agree it

was not a "hard sell". In spite of scepticism expressed by the Financial Times, among others, and the Mail on Sunday's exposure of the previous business records of several key OFC personnel, nothing dissuaded thousands of people from forking out millions of pounds for a "guaranteed" 50 per cent-plus annual

Even an ostrich would shake its head in disbelief.

> 'Rescue schemes' have been mooted, including one from as far away as Australia. Farmers are keen to build up their flocks and, the more they can use outside capital, the happier they are

plausible story to tell, and perhaps even an attractive prod-

Triangle Inn near Rhayader). there appear to be incrative markets for leather and feath-

the UK?

Financial Services Act.

investment subject to regula-This interpretation might founder on the way OFC's chick allocation, with buy-

Because individuals were

being sold specific birds,

OFC was allowed to argue

that this was not a collective

back at a guaranteed price, worked. If it could be proved that every chick allocated to an owner was the offspring of his or her own bird, the scheme might just escape the regulatory net.

But if chicks were being The ostrich industry has a allocated regardless of parent-

uct to sell. Yes, the meat has desirable qualities: low in fat and cholesterol, high in protein. Yes, it tastes like lean beef (judg-ing by the fillet that Rob Col-lard - who farms ostriches in Wales with his cousin Will, -Sunday in the 18th century And yes, the BSE scare could increase demand, while

year guaranteed? Who is the bird-brain here? If you had discovered that Mides touch, would you share it with strangers? Of all the capital in the world available for investment, why did OFC focus on individuals in countries like

The answer is that it was an unregulated activity, thanks to an apparent loophole in the

age - and the fact that allocation continued even during months when hens were not laying suggests that is the case - the loophole pulls

It is fair to assume, moreover, that whatever happens to OFC - and the ostriches bought through it - the guaranteed scheme is dead. Regulation might creep into

non-guaranteed ostrich companies for a sexiar reason. Farmers believe that ostriches breed better, and are happier, when they run in large flocks. But the Securities and Investments Board argues that this constitutes a "pooled investment" because it cannot be determined which ben laid

which egg.
The board says each investor's birds ought to be fenced off (which is why "breeding pairs" and "breeding trios"

are often offered). All this will seem academic to owners who are still in the dark about the fate of their want to know: does my bird exist? What should I do now? Until the official receiver reports, there is no firm answer to the first question. The OFC camp says Pugh's Belgian visit satisfied him that all birds had been microchipped only once and that,

by implication, each owner had a bird. When some investors have not even received their owner ship certificates yet, it is bet-

ter to wait and see. If and when investors dis cover they do have an ostrich, they will need to make new arrangements for its mainte nance, whether in Belgium or in the UK, or decide to sell it There will be no shortage of

choices in either case, Several "rescue schemes have been mooted already including one from as far away as Australia. Farmers are keen to build up their flocks and, the more they can use outside investors' capital the happier they are.

For the same reason, expec to see offers to buy birds. although probably at "dis

Investors who still believe in the ostrich story and want to hang on should avoid guarsurvive, and compare care fully as many competing offers as they can. Most will be based on the farmer taking a share of the hen's hatch Visiting the farm itself is also a good idea.

Moreover, do not count you chickens based on the high prices that breeding osiriches fetch now. Even if - especially if - demand for estrich meat and products takes off, price will fall. Concentrate on the

alaughter value. It is not a magical bird. It is a commodity, subject to the law of supply and demand. but that is all it is. E Solicitor Stephen Whitmore

in Salisbury, Wiltshire, is starting an action group for ostriches in Belgium. They OFC owners. Tel: 01722-412 979.

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Weekend Investor

Wall Street

A stressful wait for the 'firemen'

Lisa Bransten on the sharp differences between analysts

im Straus, a vice-pres-ident with Jeffries & Company, a Bostonbased investment bank, likens US investors to firefighters sitting around the station waiting for the inevita-

"There is a classical sociological study in which firemen were examined for signs of stress and anxiety," he writes. "To make a typically long sociological study short, the onger the firehouse went without a fire, the more anxious and visibly jumpy the firemen became. The law of percentages had conditioned them innately to know that the longer they went without a fire to fight, the closer they were to the next fire."

The question that has emerged on Wall Street since the Good Friday release of a second set of surprisingly strong employment figures is whether the information signals an approaching fire or whether the growing fears of inflation are just so much

It is a question that has driven a wedge between stock market analysts over the past few weeks and led to a sharp debate about whether the market is due for a correction of 10 per cent or more to end the bull run that began at the end

The fire that's now anticipated is that a strong economy and inflation are going to derail the bull case for the stock and bond markets," says Straus. But he thinks such investor worries are misplaced. and that the rise in employment are a temporary blip rather than a new trend.

Data on inflation has been mixed. Last week's figures on March producer and consumer prices were both higher than market expectations. Gains were mostly due to increasing food and energy prices and did not spread beyond those two

The risk for shares, says Straus, lies not in a robust economy, but in the potential for such worries to drive up long-term interest rates and choke off growth in an economy that is only slowly shaking off its sluggishness of late

So far this year the yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond - which rises as the price falls - has jumped nearly a full percentage point with about half of that increase since the March 8

5.750 ---5.250 4,750 ---4.500 ---

such as Stephen Roach, chief

economist at Morean Stanley

and Michael Metz, chief market

strategist at Oppenheimer.

They believe that in the end

the tightening labour market

must lead to pressures on prof-

and high job creation there is

going to be some upward pres

sure on wages and any sign of that is going to be lethal for the markets," Metz says.

He expects a sell-off that should take the market at least

10 per cent lower by the third

Such a correction could cross

learned from the murios

slowly. One lesson US inves-

tumbles of 1987 and 1990 is

that the biggest money is made from buying, not selling, into market declines. So far

this year most large declines

have eventually been met with

upturns in share prices.

That thinking could send the

market higher next week but

it would leave onen the worry

over whether last weak's loom

were enough to help investors

let off some nervous energy or

just false alarms that height-

waiting for another sucurising

piece of economic data that

would roil the market and

calm nerves before the market

can resume its upward course.

"I don't think you've seen the

Straus thinks investors are

ened the tension.

real fire yet.

quarter of this year.

"With low unemployment

Rising bond yields are bad for the equity market because of the increased cost of capital, but for most of this year the equity market managed to shake off litters on the bond

Shares in the Dow Jones Industrial Average tumbled 171 points on March 8, but they regained 111 points the next day and managed to set a new record high on April 3.

In the first four days of last week, however, the Dow Jones industrial Average was off nearly 196 points or 3 per cent although the index was promising to end the week with a small gain as: Treesury prices recovered some lost

ne factor aiding bonds on Friday was press report that chairman of the Federal Reserve, believes that fears that the economy is out of control are unfounded just as was the case with fears late last year that a recession was

Abby Cohen, co-chair of the investment policy committee at Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank, agrees with the view that the economy is not growing fast enough to tion. But she thinks that the market is likely to remain stuck in a range until investors reach the same conclusion.

'We have seen a trough in inflation and wage growth but that does not mean that they are about to skyrocket," she

On the other side of the

A detached view of the future

Philip Coggan looks at the finer points of decoupling

nothing to do with Charles and Branagh and Emma Thompson, or even Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley. Instead. it is the idea that European financial markets can liberate themselves from the dictates of Wall

There are certainly respectable arguments that decoupling should occur. After the March US employment num-bers confirmed the economic strength inherent in the February data, it seems likely that the next move in US interest rates is up. But European economies are still sluggish and further rate cuts seem likely.

Bond markets seem to be making the break. Over the past week, German govern-ment bond yields have moved below those in the US; only a month ago they were a quarter European equity investors might well wish that their market had been "coupled" with the US during the 1990s. Since the start of 1991, the FT-A European index has underperformed the S&P 500 by 20.5 per cent. This, week, however, European investors discovered the benefits of detachment. In response to the US jobs report, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 200 points in the course of three trading days - but Europe stayed fairly calm.

London, which tends to be Europe's most devoted follower of the US, was no exception. By the end of yesterday's trading, the FT-SE 100 index had gained 11 points over the course of the trading week.

The market's resilience emed due to a number of factors. First there were figures for manufacturing output omy, and revived hopes for further base rate cuts. Then, there was a flow of money into the market as unit trusts inrested the revenue from funds of personal equity plan holders

fore the April 5 deadline. Bid speculation, which has been buoying the UK market for some time, also helped, with a higher hid from Rentokil for BET, a suggestion that Deutsche Telekom might be interested in buying Cable & Wireless, and reports that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission had cleared the bids for Southern Electric and Midlands Electricity.

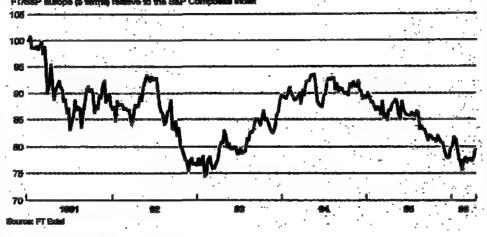
Finally, in another twist on the decoupling argument, there was some talk that US investors could be switching money out of their domestic market and into the UK and

Вигоре. Within the UK market shares in the construction sec-tor were lifted by reports of a revival in the housing market and by the latest cut in mort gage rates, initiated by the Nationwide, to their lowest level in 31 years. Despite such encouragement, the "feel-good factor" has not yet emerged to



Troubled waters; there are arguments in favour of decoupling immikati

The new world outperforms the old



Highlights of	f the week		
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institutional cash levels rose by more than £11bn during Nevertheless, there are many 1995, this had only a small who hope that rate and tax impact on their overall portfocuts will bolster consumer conlios. He estimates that cash, as fidence and help the economy the economy, stronger demand should begin to provide a more obvious stimulus to output

over the next three months, a sequence that should give a further stimulus to compar with a domestic orientation, says Richard Jeffrey, Charter-house group economist, "If this proves correct, it will be right to hold faith with the areas of the market that made the run-

ning in the first quarter." But Jeffrey is mildly less bullish than before. While be retains his end-year target of 4,000, he adds: "This should be taken more as a guide to the potential upside this year than o a wantainuble level

Jeffrey cites political worries as one factor that might prevent the market from rising further. Now that the government's majority is down to one, every time a backbencher meens the markets will start worrying that John Major's fragile lead will disappear.

While it might seem as if the prospect of a Labour governnent should be priced into shares, the markets have been counting on the Conservatives limping through to 1997; an early election would be seen as too, some of the positive factors for the markets may not have much mileage left. Despite the takeover boom, the evidence supposts that institutions are not sitting on piles of cash ready for reinvestment

Ian Scott of Lehman

a proportion of total assets, rose from 4.7 per cent at the end of 1994 to 4.9 per cent at the end of 1985.

That figure roughly squares pany, which shows that pension funds had 4.5 per cent of their portfolios in cash at the end of 1995. While that was higher than the 1994 level, it was well below the 6 to 7 per cent recorded late in the 1990s

funds have less than half the holding in conventional gilts that they had in 1987, despite the provisions of the 1995 Pensions Act which are expected widely to lead to a rise in bond holdings as managers of mature funds match assets and liabilities.

Given that the yield on the benchmark 10-year gilt remains stubbornly above 8 per cent and that, at 2.94, the glit-equity yield ratio is at its highest level since the start of 1995, there could be a tempta tion to put new cash into bonds rather than shares.

One further caveat is worth mentioning. The overwhelming consensus among comments This week, the Commodity Research Bureau index reached an eight-year high on the back of rising oil and grain prices. A commodity price rise in 1994 turned out to be a false dusk. But just suppose, this time, that the consensus turns

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are glued to their

the slow-moving days of the

first quarter of the year. The

decoupling, which means that

currencies, bond and equities

directions. Something is really

world's markets are

are moving in various

happening out there.

For one thing, the

long-slumbering dollar has

been hitting two-year highs

against the D-mark. There is

continuing agony in the dollar

bond market, where prices at the long end have tumbled by

During the past few days, the

yield on 10-year US Treasuries

has sprinted up right past the

Wall Street has taken a hit

Monday while Tokyo is on the

there are getting excited about

yield on German bunds.

of around 4 per cent since

opposite tack: the chartists

the Nikkei's still somewhat

hesitant push through 21,500,

a level which, for four years,

equity market's trading range

in both the US and Japan, and

cisive economic strength

has capped the Japane

notable weakness in

continental Europe, are

13 per cent this year so far.

nibbling at the 1.50 level

screens again. Forget

Barry Riley

Tuning in to the big picture But don't blink - or you could miss something important

5485.98 - 74.43 5487.07 + 1.09

the same rate, albeit starting from the bottom of a deep

As for Germany and France, they are generating little or no growth and unemployment is rising fast. Interest rate expectations in

the US have changed radically. At the start of the year, the bond market appeared to believe that the economy actually was in danger of slipping into Reserve's late-January quarter-point cut in the t rate is not now going to be the first of several in 1996, after all.

In fact, for all this being a esidential election year in the US, the next move is likely to be up. This prospect is allowing the dollar to shrug off tipe effects of some still-dimmal trade deficits and to start, at last, to show some strength. So far in 1996, it has risen by about 5 per cent against both the yen and the

This currency appreciation is enough to cause the analysts on Wall Street to worry anew about the earnings prospects of US companies. Without decent profits growth to feed off, Wall Street will face a nasty

hehind these confusing to and fro shifts. let-down. There is also the question of It seems quite likely that the present quarter in the US will rising commodity prices, which also are threatening show economic growth of the order of 3 per cent, and Japan

have been strong for some regarded as a weather-related problem unconnected to the economic cycle. All right, But now there has also been a

surge in energy prices. Brent crude hit \$23 a barrel this week, up one-third within three months. And although that looks like no more than a

Without decent

profits growth to feed off, Wall Street will face a nasty let-down

temporary seasonal squeeze, it could be that we cannot be mplacent any longer about the prices of base metals and other industrial raw materials if global economic growth really is picking up. Suddenly, RTZ's share price is hitting new highs.
Fined interest bonds are

wilting badly under the pressure. They have been highly volatile for several years now, probably because of the influence of leveraged speculators and the presence of too many governments ready to issue their bonds at any price. So, there is over-reaction to minor fluctuations in global inflation Likely rises in economic growth and inflation rates

acampering for cover. Thus, the US Treasury 30-year bond yield has jumped from 6 to almost 7 per cent since the turn of the year. The UK's long gilt yields are poshing towards 8½ per cent. Over in Tokyo, things look very different. Although the

level is not historically all that high.
The overhang of selling by various financial institutions and the corporate sector at above 21,000 seems largely to have dried up, and many global investors think this is

the best cyclical prospect

around just now.

stock market is 50 per cent up

This week, for instance, Ed. Memer, the American-born but Tokyo-resident investment guru, was in London talking prospects. Well, perhaps he would, anyway, because he just happens to be promoting his new Atlantis Japan Growth fund. But the fact that Japanese investment trusts listed in London often are trading at a premium to asset

excess demand for exposure to Merner argues that, from now on, Japanese company pension funds, which are taking large chunks of their money away from

value proves there is an

poorly-performing life STREET CHEENINGS, AND going to be big buyers of

Certainly, Japanese bonds look unattractive. Japanese institutions might do well to invest overseas, but most of them are too frightened to do this because currency losses have cost them so dearly in

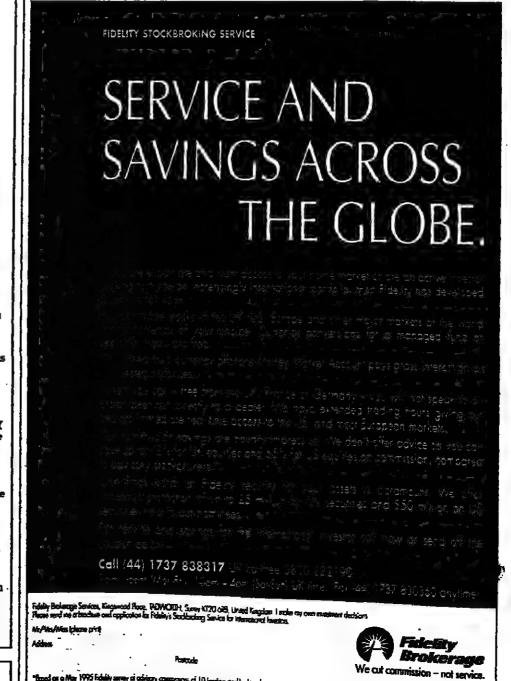
the past. So, they have nowhere much else to go but the Tokyo stock market. And while Japanese stocks do not exactly look fundamentally cheap, at least company profits are now moving in the

As for continental Europe, the softening of currencies against the dollar will come as a welcome relief for these high-cost economies. There is room for short-term interest rates to edge down further. probably to below 3 per cent. But economies such as that of Germany are more responsive to long-term rates on bonds which have, perversely, been rising in recent months although, in the past month. they have stood aside from the latest jump in US Treasury

10-year government bonds yielded anything up to 0.5 per cent more than the corresponding US Treasuries but, this week, they have been yielding 0.25 per cent less. Don't blink while watching your screen: you might miss something important.

Objectors to its proposal say Les Enjants Terribles is carved saw the climax of John Hus-

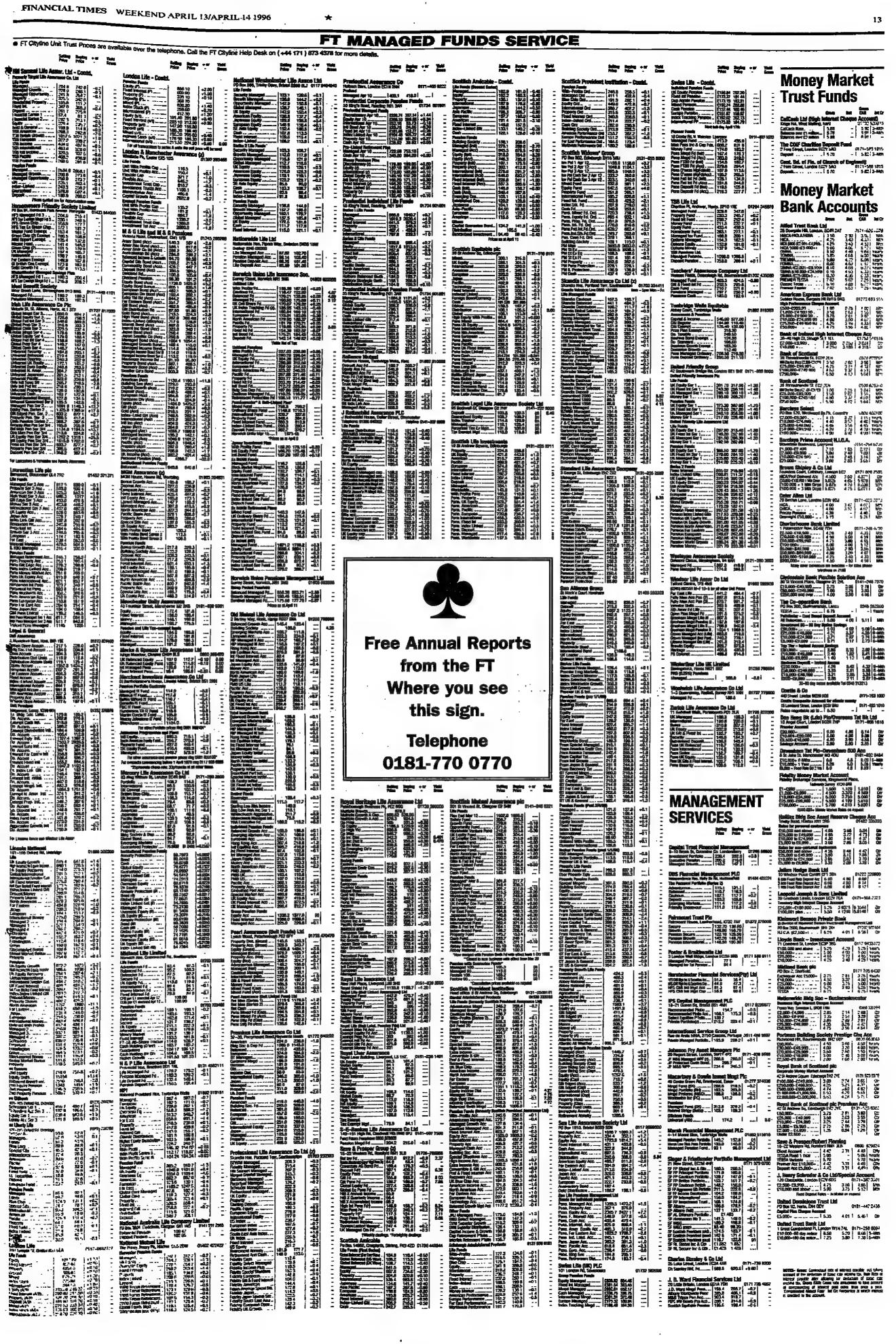
Early in the year, German

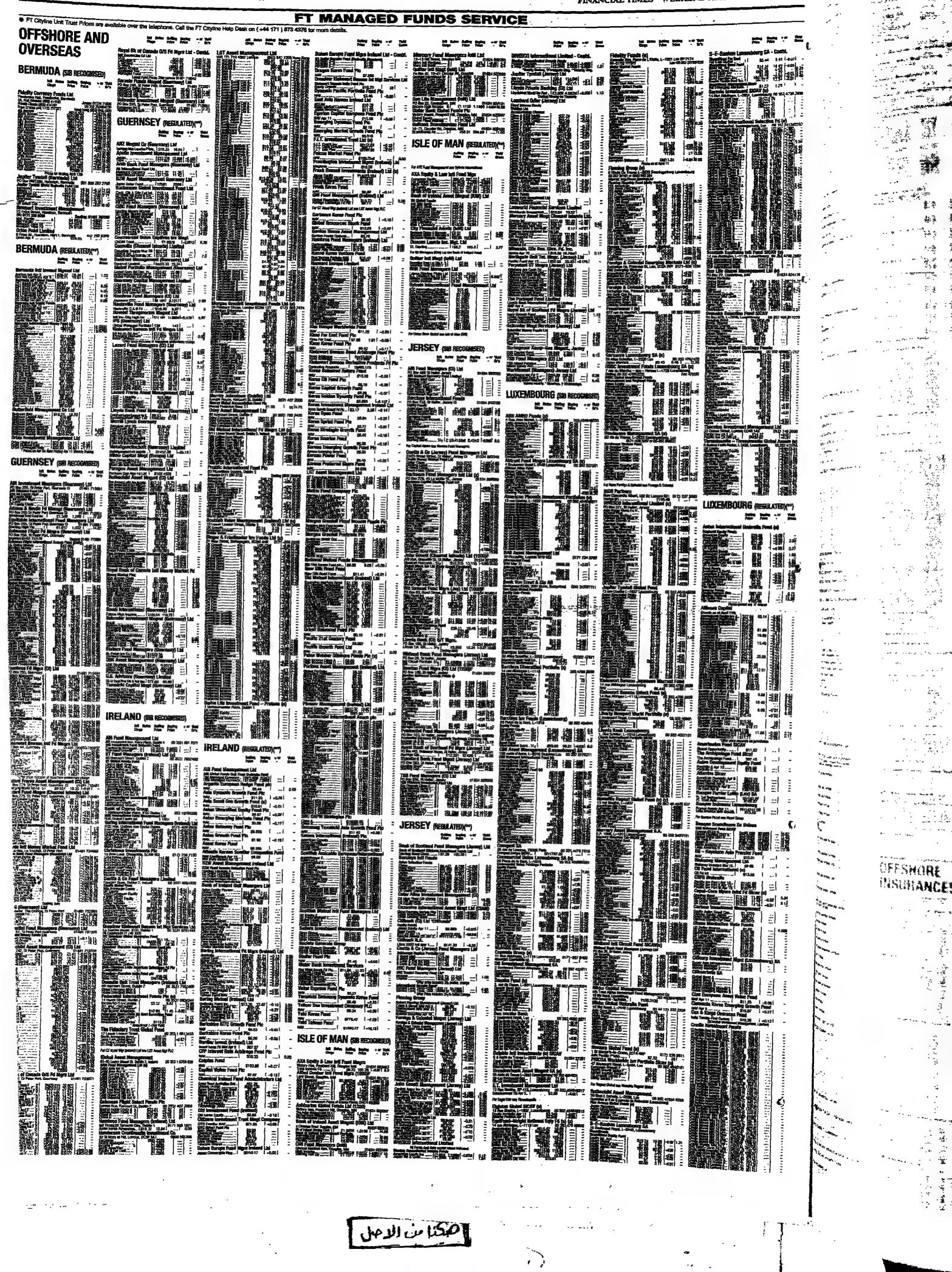


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Offshore managed funds and UK managed funds are listed in Section One

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FINANCIAL TIMES WEEKEND APRIL 13/APRIL 14 1996 FT MANAGED FUNDS SERVICE FT Cityline Unit Trust Prices are available over the telephone. Call the FT Cityline Help Desk on (+44 171) 873 4378 for more details. · 1000年 SE7 49 \$100.29 -912 1938 :822 #22 Selection of the Part of Selection of the Selection of th 크래 =1 et Con Covera Estimprise Fund N.V. 電流機能性 国形 二 鵝 manners international Advisors formitted file (mg/) | \$130.00 | ...| More files Fred List Liver Such Fred List Liver Such Fred List Stock | 1...| Hope Fred List Sister National Inches (1951 — 1 1000 Global Participa (1971) Management Lief Participa (1971) Management (1971) Managem 龖 蠿 栅 Creek Lycande led Ament Mgant (#0) Lid (1200) 鑑 Harrie Lynch Asset 齇 ±9.9± 嬔 继 避 #B -001 1+0.24 THE THE PART OF TH Sen Alfance International Life 70 lbs: 77, Les Ectedes C. St Peter Fot, Gen. 5, Other International (ICM) Ltd Sen Life International (ICM) Ltd ### 714188 = = Streets Securities OTHER OFFSHORE FUNDS Calconfilies calconfund ___ | \$100.20 | __ | 23 | 5-02.94 | -0.49 | Xembourg SA Swiss Back Corp SAPE TO LET The Jeguar Faul I.V. Irish I Be tolernation Journ Abboy Street, Delf and Govern S -0.56 -6.36 l -0.13 i Signes Investments Ltd - Cayman | __| |-0.36| |-0.02| |-3104| TOTAL GOOD TOTAL CONTROL OF TYPE Training Command Market Command Line Command 1-0.05 Johnson Fry Securities Line John Johnson Fry Securities Line Johnson Fry Line Jo Markey Courses of Course o Perceit Management Lab Send Ladde Life Parish Fidelity Advisor World Potech Fig 26 25 Fi/45 Fi Fig 26 25 Fi Fig 26 25 Fi Fig 26 25 Fi Fig 26 25 Fi Fi Fi 26 25 Fi Fi 26 2 #62 Te | 383 | SE:323 [-296] BB14石 | 1584 The state of the s FIG.12 | 288| \$14 PF | -8.89 | First Nexton Income Found First Nexton Income Found First Nexton Income Found First Nexton Income Found First Nexton Income Inco Proposed faith Service Control of the Control of t New Sec 31 _____ S78.43 | Xiphilas International Investment Fd | M Caracter Bending Ltd Garacter Fund of Funds Ltd Garacter Fund of Funds Ltd Garacter Fund Benangers Ltd Garacter Fund Benangers Ltd Garacter SA Deliance Samuel Fund Garacter SA Deliance SA Delian For further and Installation Boardada — Victor and Boardada — Vict

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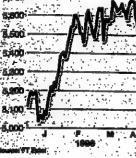
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World Stock Markets

up from early losses

A rebound on the US Treasury market helped share prices to modest gains in midsession trading yesterday in spite of weakness in the technology sector, caused by a weak earnings report from Texas Instruments, writes Lisa Bransten in New York.

At 1 pm, the blue chip Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 13.00 at 5,500.07, the Standard & Poor's 500 rose 2.98 at 634.16 and the American Stock



at 571.37. NYSE volume was a heavy 242m shares.

A press report that Mr Alan Greenspan believed the markets had over-reacted to fears of an overheating economy did much to put both the stock and bond markets at ease yesterday. The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond ended nearly a week of weakness with a gain of 1% at 89器 that sent the yield down 11 basis points to 6.82 per

The Nasdaq composite managed a gain of 2.17 at 1,099.31 in spite of weakness across the high-technology sector. The Pacific stock exchange technology index slipped 0.1 per cent. Texas Instruments sparked Sine of the softness in the technology sectors after reporttoe first quarter earnings of 84 cents a share, well below the median estimate of \$1 a share. The company attributed the

softness to declining prices for Dynamic Random Access Memory chips, known as DRAMs. After initially falling \$2 on the report, shares in Texas Instrument managed a gain of \$1/4 at

But other chip companies were weaker on the news. Intel slipped \$\frac{1}{4} at \$60, Applied Materials was \$\frac{1}{4} lower at \$35\frac{1}{4} and Motorola lost \$1/4 at \$55%. The losses were even greater across computer makers, IBM. which is a component of the Dow, shed \$5% at \$111%, Gateway 2000 was \$% lower at \$31% and Dell Computers lost \$1/2 at

There was no sign of worry. however, in Friday's launch on the Nasdaq stock exchange of Yahool, which makes a guide to the Internet. By midday, shares in the company were trading at \$33% - more than 2.5 times the offer price of \$13. Yahoo! did not begin trading until more than two hours after the market opened and then its shares surged to touch \$43 before falling from their

Other Internet-related companies were mostly lower. The American Stock Exchange/Interactive Week Internet index shed 1.3 per cent amid declines in companies such as Netscape Communications, which lost \$2% at \$51%.

Toronto was weak in quiet midday trade, dragged lower by falling golds in spite of the moderately stronger tone on Wall Street. The TSE-300 compseite index was 13.80 weaker by noon at 5,013.90 in volume

Diamond Fields Resources rose C\$% to C\$39% on reports that recent drilling suggested that a newer part of its Vois-ey's Bay nickel project might be three times larger than the Inco, which won the takeover battle for DFR also picked un C3% to C843%.

Laidlaw, the waste managegave up C\$% to C\$14%.

Mexico in good form

Traders cited greater optimism about the country's economic prospects following remarks by it was downgrading three of might climb, the long-term the finance minister on Thursteen: Banco do Brasil, Bamer trend for the stock would most the finance minister on Thurs-

They said the market had been encouraged by Mr Guillermo Ortiz's comments that announced the conclusion of a he did not expect April infla-tion to rise above 3 per cent, as well as his forecast that the fall in first quarter GDP would receive R\$750m from the govbe under 3 per cent.

SAO PAULO strengthened class restructuring.

S Africa golds advance

FT/S&P ACTUARIES WORLD INDICES

202.27

Johannesburg's gold shares ended near the day's best levels after rising slowly on a rose 28.6 to 1,827.2. De Beers repady bullion price and a collected 75 cents to R128.
Weak rand which lured a handful of buyers back into at R13.10 and Anglo added 50 the market.

Industrial shares also finished a touch better after a choppy day marked by currency worries and concerns The overall index ended 15.3 cent stake in Lourho.

HATIONAL AND RECHONAL MARKETS

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Texas picks Frankfurt sets trend with gain during afternoon

Markets wavered until the release of the US CPI, then

FRANKFURT ended up during floor trading ahead of the US data. The DAX index rose 2.07 to 2,511.78, and the Ibis

accelerated to 2,526.74. DM551, before recovering to DM553 in the Ibis after announcing a rise in net profit for 1995 to DM701m from DM840m a vear earlier. SAP recovered DM12 to

DM194, then to an Ibis DM195.20 after announcing ter 1996 earnings next Wednesday, which was earlier than had previously been announced. The company also said that it would outline plans to develop its R/3 software. The stock suffered during the week

on worries about future prospects for the software. ZURICH found a new focus in Roche after the group reported good first quarter sales figures, but investors

moved out of the banks after

THE WEEK'S CHANGES Zurich.

UBS rejected CS Holding's merger overtures. The SMI index, hesitant ahead of the day's US data, subsequently picked up to close 8.6 higher at Roche certificates jumped

SFr130 to SFr9,785, but the upbest mood failed to carry over to the other leading pharmaceuticals companies. Ciba fell SF17 to SF11,404 and Sandoz was steady at SFt1,321. UBS bearers lost SFr10 to SFr1.274, in spite of the view that the bank's rebuil to CS Holdings approach appeared to have strengthened its hand ahead of next Tuesday's share-

lost SFr2.25 to SFr111.25, but

SBC, still a beneficiary of

picked up another SFr4 to

compared with Thursday's

pared with 1994s FFr3.1bn. MILAN resumed its rally at

lower to 611.11 while the realtima Mibtel index was 118

FFr445.10 after the company reported 1995 results, and L'Orgathered FFr4 to FFr1,519 as investors positioned themselves ahead of next Wednesday's 1995 results. Analysts said that they were expecting a profit of around FFr3.4bn, com-

the end of a strong week as

bonds and stock fundamentals eral election.

Turnover settled at FFr3.6bn

sharp rise in US treasury rather than solely on the outlook for next weekend's gen-The Comit index edged 1.82

PARIS recovered late in the session helped by a rise in the US. The CAC-40 index firmed 2.22 to 2,074.74 after a session low of 2,059.35.

Havas shares fell FFr3.80 to

Apr 10 1701.29

> CS First Boston said that it continued to overweight Italian equities, setting a bullish target for the Comit index of 700 by the end of June and 725 Mr Andrea Azzimondi, strat-

egist at CSFB, attributed the week's rally to demand from domestic and foreign investors anxious not to be left behind if next weekend's general election proved unexpectedly conclusive, at a time of improving Among individual stocks.

Olivetti picked up L19.7 to L859.2 as analysts forecast that the company would report a

its 23m new shares had been set at FI 160.50. OSLO was pleased by a rally

in the price of oil and the dollar, and moved to its third consecutive closing high. The Total index climbed

put on 80 cents to Fl 162.90 on

news that the issue price for

steadily throughout the day to peak at 797.63, but dipped slightly to finish up 6.19 at WARSAW retreated slightly

following five gaining sessions and the Wig index fell 0.1 per cent to 11,663.4 as turnover rose by 20.7 per cent to 77.3m. Analysts said rising food prices and Sunday's 15 per cent

rise in petrol prices would delay a reduction in inflation and a long-awaited interest rate cut Animex rose 9.3 per cent to

59 zlotys in heavy turnover on the reports that it was expecting a tax refund of 10m zlotys. Written and edited by Michael

Mazda suspended in Tokyo on Ford stake building

In spite of active technical selland profit taking, the Nikkei index managed to keep its bargain hunting by domestic institutions, as well as specula-tive purchases by individuals, writes Emiko Terazono in

The Nikkei 225 index lost 33.96 at 21,660.47, having moved between 21.579.48 and

The Topix index of all first section stocks rose 0.85 to 1,672.69 and the Nikkai 300 fell 0.27 to 310.20. Gainers led losers by 614 to 474 with 141 sues remaining unchanged. In London, the ISE/Nikkei 50

index was up 0.13 at 1,448.47. The Nikkel lost its uiternoon strength following the announcement by Mazda Motor that it would be alloting 144.lm new shares to Ford at Y368 per share, 22 per cent lower than the stock's close on Thursday at Y465. Ford will increase its stake under the

Mexico in good form

Mexico City was in good spirits
during the morning as the IPC
index added 69.07 to 3,113.08.

Analysis beseved that Ford's
bigger equity stake in Mazda
was likely to propel the Japanese car maker's share price
higher when trading resumed
on Monday, Reuter reports.

Analysis said that though it

deal from around 25 per cent to

THE WEEK'S CHANGES +10.5 Kuala Lumpur.

reports that its recurring profits for the current year would remein fist. in Osaka, the OSE average

rose 21.53 to 23.205.56 in vol-

ume of 99.5m shares.

The continuing post election rally saw equities move steadily ahead on both the main and OTC markets in

The weighted index rose more than 4.1 per cent to 5.945.06, an 11-month high, in turnover of T\$101.2bn, while the OTC index advanced more than 5 per cent to the highest level since it started trading on

The OTC index gained 7.28 to 136.49 in turnover of T\$1.2bn, a record for the third consecutive day.

Several analysts expected the main index to test the 6,400 to 6,700 level before May 20, when President Lee Teng-hul starts a new term in office.

houses. The construction sub-index added 3.5 per cent and the financial sub-index rose 3.8 SYDNEY saw a strong performance from the resources sec-

tor, with investors spurred on by rising commodity prices. The All Ordinaries index rose for the third consecutive session gaining 12.4 to 2,247.2. strongly with gold and nickel major WMC back to pre-Christmas levels, while CRA extended its gains to post a 4 per cent rise over the week.

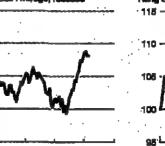
The gold index rose 1.1 per

cent, with Lihir Gold jumping

10 cents to A\$2.09.

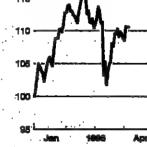
HONG KONG finished a listless session modestly weaker, as the market was weighed by caution ahead of the weekend and the US consumer price index later in the day. The Hang Seng index ended 42.77 weaker at 10,849.80, in turnover

Cathay Pacific fell 25 cents to HK\$12.70 on continued fears of keen competition from mainland-owned China National



Aviation, which is due to receive a local operating licence. Swire, Cathay's parent company, dropped another HK\$1.50 to HK\$63.25 after losing HK\$2 on Thursday.

Giordano, the casual wear group, lost 10 cents to HK\$6.90 after falling 40 cents on Thursday on rumours that more of its China outlets had been closed down



1995 net loss of L1,493bn to

L1,629bn next Tuesday, com-

pared with a L678.9bn loss a

year earlier. The troubled com-

pany is also expected to omit the dividend. Fiat rose L73 to

AMSTERDAM took some

profits, notably in Heineken

which fell F16 to F1366. The

Aex index slipped 1.36 to

541.90, but analysts were not

unduly pessimistic about the

outlook, noting that dollar strength would support senti-

ment. Ahold, also under pres-

sure from profit takers of later,

manufacturer of photocopier's.

eased another Fl 1.60 to Fl 85.

rut, lacking fresh factors to move it either way ahead of and the Straits Times Industrials index edged 0.71 down to 2.384.04

City Developments, however, picked up 20 cents to its recent high of S\$12.80 while Amcol Holdings closed 6 cents up at S\$3.74 on news of a share-KUALA LUMPUR saw the

advance of second board

shares slow during the afternoon as investors booked profits while blue chips were mixed. The composite index picked up 2.63 to 1,150.24. Super Enterprise jumped M\$1.50 to M\$30.00 after a nineday trading restriction was lifted. The stock went as high as M235.00. Intiblus gained 26

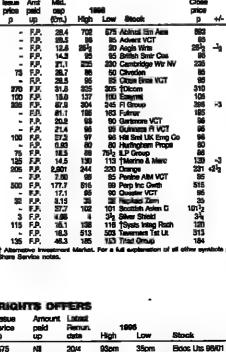
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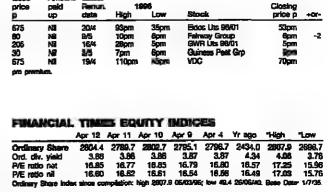
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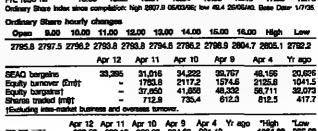
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3 mm 277 277 296 277 277 278 278 278 278 278 278 278 278	Day's Fee Change of the Change	roll by FT-S any of Actual Pound Sterling Index 108.10 177.70 204.25 156.67 173.14 190.14 193.54 421.13 256.99 175.50 256.49 107.51 256.49 167.55 330.13 235.08 179.55 225.22	SE international process and present and p	ionei Limi the Institute I	998 Local	0.6 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0	Gross Dow. D Yield & Los 4.13 2.266 2.36 2.36 2.19 2.272 1.62 2.19 2.272 2.19 2.272 2.19 2.272 2.19 2.272 2.19 2.272 2.10 2.10 2.10 2.10 2.10 2.10 2.10 2.1	US Politics St. 120 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	DNESSOA Pound terling 198.50 177.66 204.12 147.76 155.89 291.20 174.48 191.71 168.62 428.64 428.64 151.11 154.26 79.92 238.27 431.99 352.49 168.64 428.64 257.10 126.64 257.10	Ven Index II 137.85 103.86 103	10 1996 - DM C. 1998 141.89 162.79 117.84 124.32 124.32 125.29 138.28 307.34 58.95 120.51 138.26 307.34 188.43 344.52 281.12 134.50 136.51 188.10 144.05	Local urrancy 5 index 169,48 141,50 158,64 271,523 156,81 175,48 156,82 135,25 239,32 88,73 106,00 539,40 8838,28 128,57 212,52 238,98 329,51 182,51 182,51 182,54 226,43	2 week & High 199.28 215.81 170.25 159.96 305.17 198.88 174.89 451.19 287.81 184.82 551.86 1237.14 137.78 175.88 332.28 252.34 183.85 235.50	AR SEDEX	C3744) Shell Trans. C843) Well Human C843) Well Human C843) Sind Charter C825) Storethouse C346) Transes Wir C570) Unification C117774) Zoneca C1187219 Option But India C31674) But Acus C3172) But Tolecous C31724) Cattery Sch C509 GEC C369]	300 100 300	7 1 54% 6 23 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	4 18 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19	28 300 17 30 16 16 30 17 30 16 16 30 16 16 17 30 16 16 16 17 30 16 16 17 30 17 30 17 30 17 30 17 30 17 30 17 30 17 30 17 30 17 30 17 30 1	British Sast (2004) (2004) (2004) (2004) Farms (2005) Hillindoner (2007)	200 5 200 154 200 155	12 16th	13 16 2004 29 3014 24 30 3014 24 30 3014 25 30 41	32 F.P. 3 3 F.P. 115 F.P. 1 135 F.P. 1 136 P.E. 1 136 P.E. 1 137 P.E. 1 138 P.P. 1 138 P	1.15 35 37 7 102 113 113 113 113 113 113 113 113 113 11	101 Security 13/2 Silver Si 16 15/345 Silver Si 16 15/345 Silver Si 16 15/345 Silver Si 16/345 Silver Si 16/34 Silver Si 16/34 Silver Si 16/34 Silver	Acient C deld stag Rach sa Tast Ut and sa Tast Ut a	tock tock Uts 9 shray Grown Uts 9 suness Pe DC Apr 4 1 2796. 7 3.8 9 16.9 96; bw 4	Y/ 7 2 7 2 1.4 2
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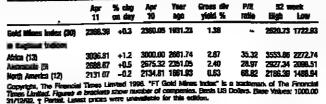
| Section | Sect FT GOLD MINES INDEX Apr % chig Apr Year Gross div P/E 52 week 11 on day 10 agn yield % ratio High Low







Apr 12 Apr 11 Apr 10 Apr 9 Apr 4 Yr ago "High "Low 997.50 988.10 988.60 984.60 991.40 - 1054.62 985.68



-0.5 251.68 176.23 200.57 256.97 -0.6 2.25 238.23 252.45 177.10 201.34 258.23 258.21 206.41 206.70 -0.5 230.08 167.10 183.36 167.41 -0.5 2.25 238.01 230.72 167.65 184.01 198.33 245.54 189.06 183.18 -0.7 202.47 141.77 187.35 187.03 -0.6 3.03 186.15 203.47 142.74 182.27 182.06 208.03 178.18 178.42 0.4 283.34 188.40 225.80 251.87 0.4 2.37 286.16 251.71 197.62 224.67 250.81 297.48 231.86 222.91 0.0 164.3 115.14 137.04 117.45 0.0 1.15 167.91 164.15 115.15 130.81 117.48 177.87 148.86 184.38 -0.3 180.17 126.18 143.39 141.60 -0.3 2.03 184.56 180.49 126.57 143.90 142.00 185.05 165.51 170.13 -0.5 245.71 172.04 185.81 250.16 -0.5 2.25 252.03 246.38 172.85 185.00 251.33 252.26 202.03 202.71 -0.5 245.71 172.04 185.81 250.16 -0.5 2.25 252.03 246.38 172.85 185.00 251.33 252.26 202.03 202.71 -0.7 185.05 126.67 147.47 155.33 -0.6 2.49 190.18 185.93 130.43 148.28 158.24 190.78 159.23 159.59 -0.5 284.27 199.05 226.54 230.93 -0.5 2.96 297.45 284.93 199.88 277.24 252.20 230.88 237.71 240.83 -0.3 181.25 128.92 144.45 145.74 -0.3 2.05 185.60 181.44 127.29 144.71 145.2 186.17 167.38 170.17 -0.3 203.3 140.34 159.73 173.01 -0.3 1.04 159.28 159.29 120.74 148.82 150.10 173.60 230.05 178.75 178.75 -0.5 237.24 167.92 184.26 262.36 186.03 186.03 186.03 205 92 -0.4 202.65 141.90 161.50 177.75 -0.4 2.13 207.68 203.03 142.43 181.93 178.39 211.20 181.17 181.17 Copyrige, FT-SC memoritones Unified, Continues, Entitle and Co, and Saundard & Poor's. 1995. All rights resoured. "FT/SEP Actualities" is a joint transmissional Unified, Continues, Entitle and Saundard & Poor's.

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Contiguing Continues were unified to the Continues Continues Continues to Promise Continues Were uniformly to the Continues Contin

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE: Dealings

Details of business done shown below have been taken with consent from last Thursday's Stock Exchange Official List and should not be reproduced without permission. Details relate to those securities not included in the FT Share information

Unless otherwise indicated prices are in pence. The prices are those at which the business was done in the 24 hours up to 5 pm on Thursday and settled through the Stock Exchange Talisman system, they are not in order of execution but in accending order which denotes the day's highest and lowest

For those securities in which no business was recorded in Thursday's Official List the latest recorded business in the two previous days is given ‡ Bargains at special prices. Φ Bargains done the previous day.

British Funds, etc. Tressury 134% Set 2000/03 - £1224 1224 (10Appe)

Corporation and County Blackburn Corp 31/2% Irrd Stk - 528 (44(585) Blackburn Corp 4% Cons Deb Stk Irrd - 541

Nottingham Corp 3% Stk (Irrd) - 531 k (4Apss)

UK Public Boards

Foreign Stocks, Bonds, etc-(coupons payable in London)

Greece,(Kingdom of) 5% 1881 (Assd with Acceptance Cert) - 125 (10Ap88) Greece,(Kingdom of) 5% Ln 1914/Assd with Acceptance Cert) - 125 (10Ap88) Abbey National Starting Capital PLC8-1-6 Subord Get Bids 2004(81/Vers) - 1100.2 Abbey National Treasury Serves PLC 8,5% Grd Nts 1938(816 Vor) - 3100.3 (10Ap88) Abbry National Treasury Serves PLC 8,5% Grd Nts 1938(816 Vor) - 3100.3 (10Ap88) Abbry National Treasury Serves PLC 7, 125% Abbey National Treasury Sens PLC 7,125% Get Ats 2001 - C97 (10Ap96) Abbey National Treasury Sens PLC 7,125% SNA NOS 2001 - 197 (10Ap86) Abboy National Treasury Serve PLC 7/4% Grd Nts 1996 (Br C Var) - C1007/4 ASDA Group PLC 107/4 (Bds EC10DB-C1000A100000) - C1127/4 (10Ap86) BAA PLC 54/% CTW Bds 2006 IBCESOCOESURGO - C1087/2

BAA PLC 54% Cnv 8ds 2006 (Reg_Mult_D -

\$107\(\frac{1}{4}\) 12

Bank of Greece 9\(\frac{1}{4}\) 18 th 2003 (for f. Var) \$102\(\frac{1}{4}\) 10040581

Barclays Bank P.C. 7.878\(\frac{1}{4}\) Undered Subord

Nts (87 S Var) - \$38\(\frac{1}{4}\)

Barclays Bank P.C. 29\(\frac{1}{4}\) 19

Copital Bols(Br.C Var) - \$31\(\frac{1}{4}\)

Barclays Bank P.C. 29.75%\(\frac{1}{4}\) Undered Subord

Nis - \$103\(\frac{1}{4}\) (84068)

Barclays Bank P.C. 29.75%\(\frac{1}{4}\) Undered Subord

Nis - \$103\(\frac{1}{4}\) (84068) ays Bank PLC 124,% Senior Subarti Bds 1997(BrCVar) - £108.4 (4Ap95) British Gas PLC 75/96 Bds 2000 (Br £ Var) -

British Gas PLC 107,16 Bds 2001(Br 51000,100008100000) - £1117₆ (10ApR6) British Gas PLC 87₆14 Bds 2003 (Br & Ver) -2977₆ 9as PLC 83,14 Bds 2006 (Br E Var) -

ESS
British Telecommunications PLC Zero Continue 2000(arc1000a10000) - 574 \(\text{p} \) (BACEI)
British Telecommunications PLC 71 \(\text{p} \) (BACEI)
British Telecommunications PLC 85 \(\text{p} \) (BACEI)
British Celtrol - 235 \(\text{p} \) (104 \(\text{p} \) (BACEI)
British Celtrol (Bactical Lersey) Ld 91 \(\text{p} \) (Criv
Cap Bds 2006 (Reg \$1000) - 1685 \(\text{p} \) (BACEI)
Bactical & Writishes PLC 875 \(\text{BB} \) (BACEI)
Bactical & Schwerpess PLC 875 \(\text{Re} \) (104 \(\text{CR} \) (10

Commercial Union PLC 8.82546 (3rd Bds 2005 - 5382)

2005 - 538/c
Denmark@agdom of 84.% New 1896 (ar E Var) - 2100.1 (44,080)
Discoss Group (Capital) P.C. 64,% Cray (8d 8d: 8d: 8d: 2002 (8d: 25000) - 17.255 (84,96)
Discoss Group Transmy P.C. 74.% Glid 8d: 2004(8rtVarious) - 2337, 4 (44,08)
E.I. Du Port de Nestrous & Co 84,5% Nes 1985 (8r. 5120031000) - \$100.000
Bastern Group P.C. 87, % Bos 2004(8rt Vars) - 1377,

Bastern Group PLC 8-1/16 Bds 2004(Br2 Vars) - 1974;

8E Enterprise Finance PLC 8-1/16 Gdd Basth Bds 2006 (Big 25000) - 210276 (BAce6);

8E Enterprise Finance PLC 8-1/16 Gdd Basth Bds 2006(Br250008100000) - 210256 (BAce6);

8A456(Basth Basth of Jepen 8-1/16 Gdd Bds 2004(Br 550009) - 5107.48

Porte PLC 8-1/16 Bds 2003 (Br 2 Var) - 210016

(Millord Hullding Society Column Fits Fits Mis. 2003 (Br E Var) - 256 (10Ap36) Henson PLC 10Ap16 Eds 1897 (Br EVar) lanson Youst PLC 10% Bdn 2006 89:58000

- 1710-4 1999(9:10008:10000) - 2700 (94,999) Maxim Development Bark 7½ % Gtd Nts 2003 (8½ Ver) - 2804-6 Ingain Fin Corp for Municipal Ent. 8½% Gtd Bota 2009(9:04:280004) - 2804.65

Bes: 2009[67.8850004.100000] - 885.45
Laribrote Group France/Jessey/Ld 674 Chv
Can Bass 2006 (Br655008.100000] - 597
Land Securines PLC 93-3% Gre Bds 2004
(Br55000850000) - 51-10
Lloyds Bank PLC 93-3% Bubord Bds 2003 (Br
2 Var) - 51011₈ (Bap66)
Lloyds 1988 Group PLC 93-3% Bubord Bds 2003 (Br
2006(Br5Var) - 197.55 (10Ap66)
Landon Bectrickly PLC 85-4% Bds 2003 (Br 2 Var) - 597-3 (4Ap69)
London Bectrickly PLC 85-4% Bds 2008 - 598
[10Ae69]

| 100Acc6|

2007 (Reg \$10000) - 39912 884 894, 100 (8A956) Middond Intern. Fin. Berr. BV Glid FRN. 1999(Br.510000) - 5995₈ HAG966) National Cris Co. P.C. 816 Beb. 2006 (Br.C. Var.) - 1995.45 (10A956) National Group Cl. Fr.C. 816 Beb. 2006 (Reg. C. Var.) - 1995.4 (10A956) National Group FLC. 816 Beb. 2003(Br8 Var.) - 3941₂¢

National Westminister Bank PLC 112/14 Und-Scients C1000(Cmv to Priffleg - £108/4 (\$4096)

Subhits C1000CTW to PRIPAGY - \$1084; (\$Ap96)
Northumoran Water Group PLC 94; % 6/4 2002 (8/ £ Var) - \$1037; (10Ap96)
PARC Capata Ld 84; % Criv Cap Bols 2006 (8/ £0006)
PARC Capata Ld 84; % Criv Cap Bols 2006 (8/ £0004) - \$100.3 (\$App86)
Park Organization PLC 94; % Bols 2006 (8/ £ Var) - \$100.3 (\$App86)
Pacitized Capital PLC 74; % Criv Bols 2002(\$10000) - \$100.3 (\$App86)
Pattern Ferring (1/07 Finnes Ld 94; % Parp Subord Gid Nts (8/ £ Var) - \$244;
Ployal Insurance Holgs PLC 57; % Subord Bols 2003 (8/ £ Var) - \$1034; (4Ap96)
Bastony (Li)Cameral Insurance Ld 82; % Criv Capata Ld 84;
Part Capata Capata

Changes Selection Carolinal PLC 81-94Cad New 2000/85-10001, 100004 1700009 - 2101 M Seath Africa (1900) - 2101 M Seath Africa (1900)

087% 18500 PLG 6%% Box 2003(Br@Vare)(PyPd) -

Verburg(S.G.) Group PLC 9% Perp Subord No. (Pas-No.61) - 002,004 (104,085)

Welch Water Utifilios Finance PLC 75g% Gtd
Bds 2014(Br2Var)(FP) - 2955 (4Ap66)
Winbond Beatronics Corporation 296 Crv
Bds 2003 (Reg S) - \$100 (4Ap66)
Yorkstine Bechlert Group PLC 85g% Bds
2005(Br2Var) - 2915 (App66)
Yorkstine Bechlert Group PLC 85g% Bds
2005(Fag) - 2987 (App67)
PLS 2005(Fag) - 2987 (App67

(10App6)
Abbey National Treasury Servs PLC
PTENSTILM 11% NS. 8740107 - PEO LAS
Commonwealth Bank of Australia SA150m
71; 95Nm 8472001 - SA961; 961; (9App6)
Deutsche Ptendbrief-Und Hydro AG S200m
rillyth Nrs. 28712718 - SEEL
Deutsche Ptendbrief-Lind Hydro AG S200m Bly M Mis. 20/12/10/1 - 301.4 Deutsche Phandorfd - 1/mi Hypo AG \$200m II. 125% Duck wat 9-4/mi - 329 Energie Beheer Nederland B.V. PTE500m 1%, Mis. 20/13/55 - PTM 238 (B-100S) Pritand(Plapublic of) E500m 7% Bols 28/10/ 2000 - 221.55 (A-10) International Endesa BV PTE3000m 1% Debt

Modificational Endess BV PT EXCOUNT 176 Debt best 12713/67 - PTEL 3 GROSS International Prisance Corporation P250m 13th No. 87/6791 - PSEL 3 (TAVORS) National Prisanciera S.N.C. R250m 1776 Nts 26/2/98 - 299.55 eust - 299.85 (BAD98) Predantitingdom of \$500m 8.75% Debt inst 28/3/2001 - \$96¹/₂\u00e4

Sterling Issues by Overseas Borrowers Asian Development Bank 10¹4.96 Ln 86k 2008(Pag) - 2113.14 (94.968) Denmant@(ingdom of) 1396 Ln 86k 2008 -£129¹4 (44.958) Bank 896 Ln 86k 200

\$129\square\text{A}\$ (AA)98\text{3}\$ (AA)98\text{3}\$ (AD)98\text{1}\$ (AA)98\text{3}\$ (AD)98\text{3}\$ (AD)98\text{3}\$ (AD)98\text{3}\$ (AD)98\text{4}\$ (AD)98\text{4}\$ (AD)98\text{3}\$ (AA)98\text{3}\$ (AA)98\te weden@Gngdom of) 9% % Ln 96k 2014(Reg) - £10713 (4Ac96)

Listed Companies(excluding Investment Trusts) ASF Investments PLC 51/2% Lins Lin Six 67/ 2002 50p - 42 (Anp86) ASF Investments PLC 71/2% Lins Lin Six 67/ 2002 50p - 491/2 7 (10Ap86) AFI Group PLC 3.86% Cum Pri \$1 - 82 (8Ap86) Abbre Method In Find Six 68/ Abbre Method

(8458) Abbey National PLC 10*js% Non-Cum Star-ing Pri - 10*ju % Alason Group PLC 8.25p (Net) Criv Cum Red Pri 10p - 73 (4458) Allied Domacq PLC 85/2% Cum Pri St - 81 98-98 eog PLC 11%% Data Box 2009 -ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF THE

ABIOL DOMINGO PLC 94/96 Ums LN 80X - 337 (BASSI) ABIOL DOMINGO PLC 73/96 Ums LN 80X 83/96 -1397/3 (10A/186) ABIOL DOMINGO PINGONIA BIONS PLC 93/96 CHICCONSULDENSISSESSOS PROSAUBICTODO -E100 (10Ap96) Bled Domeco Financial Servs PLC 61,16 Gkt Cnv Subord Sde 2008(Br E Var) - 297

(BADS6) Alvie PLD 5.5% Criv Curn Non-Vig Red Pri Altic RLC 8.8% Criv Curn Non-Arig Red Pri
Et - 87
American Strands Inc Shs of Com Bilk 83.128
- \$42.186\$ 226 56
Anthres PLC Ord 19205 - 80,72 p 48 1/4 57
Andrews Syless Group PLC Criv Pri 50p - 78
Anglian Water PLC 51/9% index-United Ln
Bilk 200698.47(99) - E1291/4 19
American Syless Group PLC Ord 50 - 185 (44,96)
Anglian Water PLC 51/9% index-United Ln
Bilk 200698.47(99) - E1291/4 19
American Syless PLC 91/25% 16t Mig
Deb Sik 2020 - \$371/4 (104,96) 16t Mig
Deb Sik 2020 - \$371/4 (104,96) 16t Mig
Deb Sik 2021 - E107 (44,96) 16t Mig
Deb Sik 2011 - E107 (44,96) 17
Anglian Sik 2011 - E107 (44,96)
Anglian Sik 2011 - E107 (44,96)
Back Plands PLC 10 676 Curn Pri 51 - 89 (44,96)
Back Plands PLC ADR (21) - 815.52 Jb
BET PLC ADR (41) - 812.46(8)
BET PLC ADR (41) - 812.46(8)
BET PLC SYl Perp Deb Sik - E21/9
BCC Group PLC 124/46 Uns Ln 86/2012/17
- E128/4 (8)
Even Back Plus Com Com Bad Pri 100 -

SOC Group PLC AOR (1:1) - ST3.55 (10A.046)
SOC Group PLC 124/6 Lins Ln Str. 2012/17
- \$128/4, 6
STP PLC 7/5/pNet) Criv Gum Red Pri 10p 185 8 (AAp66)
STR PLC AOR (4:1) - 819.1 82
Seley(CL) PLC '8* Crit 10p - 25 (4A.966)
Selevich PLC 796 Cum Pri \$1 - 66 (SA.966)
Selevich PLC 796 Cum Pri \$1 - 66 (SA.966)
Selevich PLC (SA.966)
Selevich PLC STR (4:1) - 844.056
Sercicys Sent PLC Bordons Property Index
Cons 1996 - \$100.38 A8 (4A.966)
Selevich PLC AOR (4:1) - 844.056
Selevich PLC AOR (4:1) - 844.056
Selevich Sent PLC 1996 Lins One In Str. 2002/07 - 1787/16 (SA.966)
Selevich Group PLC 1250 pNet) Criv Red Pri 250 - 97 (10A.966)
Selevich Group PLC 11.250 Cum Red Pri 2005 10p - 112 ½
Sent 6 Walkee Armold Trust PLC Crd 25p 286
Sent PLC 10³/₁96 Deb Str. 2016 - £113.36 ½
Set 6 446
Selevich PLC 10³/₁96 Deb Str. 2016 - £113.36 ½
Set 7 - \$295/₂

Bean Investments PLC 7²/₃% Uns Ln Str 92 97 - 1391₂ Belway PLC 9.5% Cum Red Pri 2014 E1 -108-1 (4ApSt) ments PLC 7¹5% Uns Lri Stk 92/ Simingham Midahires Butchng Soc P¹₂% Perm Int Bearing She E1000 - 696¹₄ ¹₄ 7 ¹₂ ¹₄ ¹₅ ¹₆ 8¹₄ Blue Crote Industries PLC AOR (1:1) - 68.38

To Take to the second of the s

Briefs Water PLC 8-596 3rd Non-Cum Crit Rec 2007/10 11 - 112 Briden PLC 65-76 Uns Ln 5tc 2002/07 - 1251 (SASS6) Brissot Water PLC 8-16 Ye Cum Ind Prf 11 -

21 - 97 (10Ap86) British Steel PLC AOR (10:1) - 219.415 British Steel PLC 11*2% Deb Sex 2016 -

British Sugar PLC 104% Red Deb Six 2013 - £115.29 - ST15.29 Brunni Holdings PLC 4.8p (Net) Crv Cum Ped Pri 20p - 58 BulgeriAF-) & Co PLC Ord Shs 5p - 52 Bulmeri PLJ Holgs PLC 6-1, 51 2ng Cum Pri ST - 111 (9Ap96)

FT-SE ACTUARIES INDICES

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Bulmer(H.P.)-Holgs PLC 9¹2% Cum Prf £1 -118 (10Ap06) Burmah Castrol PLC 7¹4% Cum Red Prf £1 -118 (Hundrog Burmah Castrol PLC 7¹c % Cum Ped Pri £1 -75¹c Burmah Castrol PLC 8% Cum Pri £1 - 84 Burmah Roseprato PLC 15% Una Ln Stk 2007/12 • £124 (10Ap86) Burton Group PLC 8% Una Ln Stk 1896/ 2001 - 537¹c

Butte Mining PLC 10% (Net) Criv Cum Red Ptf 1894 10p - 3½ (44,086) Caffyra PLC 6½% Cum 1st Prt £1 - 70 (84,086) interiorgy Co line Ship of Corn Str. \$0,0675 -\$247, (34596) S247; (SApSE) Capital & Counties PLC 97;% 1st Mitg Deb Japies & Courses Process of the Section State Course Process Section Process of The Process of T

Subord Bols 2007(Reg £5000) - £1721₂ (SAp96) alors for Cont Sik \$1 -\$87.138375 Certex Corporation Shs of Corn Sik \$0.26 -\$283

ozona Neriwood Albence Hidgs Ld 71₂% Uns Ln Bik 10a - 20 (HAG85) Ay Site Estates PLG 10.50% 1st Mitg Deb Eth 200 - 20 (Auges)
City Site Estates PLC 10.50% 1st Mtg Deb
Eth 2017 - 054
City Site Estates PLC 5.25% City Cum Rad
Pri Et - 58 81 (10Ac68)
Gayfetine PLC 8.5% Subord City Uns Lin Sit
2000/01 - 2100
Coastal Corporation Sits of Com Sit \$0.33 1/
3 - \$38% (10Ac68)
Coastal Corporation Sits of Com Sit \$0.33 1/
- 538 (10Ac68)
Coastal College 2000/07 - 538 (10Ac68) - 588 (10Ap85) Coats Patons PLC 94/4 Une Ln Snx 2002/07 - 584\$

Costs Viyella PLC 4,9% Cum Pri £1 - 64 6 Cohen(A.) & Co PLC Non.V "A" Ord 20p role! Union PLC 3.5% Cum Red Prf CONTRICTOR UNION THE STATE CONTRICTOR OF THE STATE CON Pri 21 - 1104, 3, Cooper Frederick) PLC 8.5p Net) Cmv Red Cum Pig Pri 10p - 71 Cordent PLC ADR (3:1) - \$6.65 Cordent PLC 6th Cnv Line Ln Set 2015 -253 (8)983 Countable PLC 74; M Une Ln Set 2005 -

Custo Courtesáds Clothing Brands Ld 7½% Cum Prf Sik C1 - 76½ (AApSS) Coventry Building Society 12½% Perm Inter-est Boering Shis 21000 - 2124¾ Sig ¼ ½ ¼ Orana Europe Ld 5¹/₂% Cum Pri 8% 21 - 85 (10Ap66) Croda International PLC 5.8% Cum Pri 21 -Crods international PLG (LISA Clum Pri Et + 85 E15.05 (104p86) Delpety PLC 4x56 - 215.05 (104p86) Delpety PLC 4x596 Cum Pri E1 - 71¢ Debenfaras PLC 7½% Una Ln 8x 200907 - 1504 (24p86) Debenfaras PLC 7½% Una Ln 8x 2009/07 - 154 (24p86) Decama PLC 6x596 Cum Chw Red Pri E1 - 33

ons Group PLC ADR (5:1) - 921.3 Dover Corp Com Stt. \$1 - \$45.334th Bidos PLC Ord 10p - 705 15 5 25 30 Bys(Wimbledon) PLC Ord 25p - 25.8 (84cms) Bimass PLC 6.25pN.et) Cnv Cum Red Pvf Sp English China Clays PLC ADR (5:1) - \$14 (10Ap86) (10Ap96) Enterprise Oil PLC 114/16 Line Ln 56; 2016 -£116,859 ,899

41
Suro Dieney S.C.A. She FRS (Depository Receipts) - 176 9 ½ 64 4 5 Suro Dieney S.C.A. She FRS (Sh) - FR13.Sh .93 .95 .95 .98 Eurotumel FLC/Eurolumnel SA Units (Siconem Inscribud) - FR2.4988 ½ ½ .84 ..co.4 FBD Holdings PLC Ord int0.60 - £1.63 FBC Holdings PLC Ord 5p - 125 First National Building Society 11¹/₈% Perm int Bearing She £10000 - £114¹/₂ ²/₈

PA Searing one C10000 - E114-2 -9
(BASSS)
Pith Reston PLC 11.05% Ours Pri 21 - 118
(BASSS)
Pathyard & Rossers Ray & Hors CoS¹2%
Gist Pri Sa - CSS¹2 Mages
Raw Group PLC Was to sub for Ord - 101 2
(10Apss)
Foliace Group PLC Ord &p - 810
Foliace Group PLC Ord &p - 810
Foliace Group PLC Ord &p - 810 Formose, Fund Livre (Pag) - 200000 Formum & Meson PLC Ord 6tk E1 - E117 (4A,088)
Friendly Hobbs PLC 7% Criv Cum Red Pri 21

- 93 (4A,088)
Gen PLC ADR (1:1) - 314.8 (10A,089)
GN Creat Nordio Ld Shis DK100 - DK468.5974974)
Q.T. Crale Growth Fund Ld Ord S0.01 - \$37%
(10A,088)

(10App86) General Accident PLC 7%16 Ours into Pri E1 - 97½ 8 ½ ½ Control Accident DI C 9%16 Ours but Put Di

Goode Dummit PLC 1.5% Cum PM 50p - 22 (AA,956)
Great Portland Estates PLC 9.5% 1st Mtg
Deb Six 2018 - 21031,
Great Linkersal Scores PLC 5¹g % Red Une
Ln Six - 256 (AA,956)
Greatesis Group PLC 7% Crv Subord Sde
2003 (Pag) - 1136 1,
Guinness PLC ADR (8:1) - 222.8626 \$ 35.1 .1
23 L. 1. Guinnese Flight Global Strategy Fd Ptg Red Pri \$0.01(Starling Money Fund) - £10.15

Pri SU01(Starling Money Fund) - 210.18
(Hap89)
H88C Hadge PLC Ord 8H10 Shong Kong
Peg) - SH14.742014 .781847 .808672
.821841 J405971 31133 11255 4, 120779
.313365 3- 12.5186 .8077 3- 1.7786 5 .1
.20514 .58
H88C Hidge PLC 11.8916 Subord Sdn 2002
(Reg) - 2113
Halfatz Building Society 8-16 Perm Int BearIng Shs 21 (Reg C50000 - 2123/2 (Hap88)
Hadya S at Hamonia PLC Ord 5p - 316 8 20/2
(10Ap88)
Hashot inc She of Com 86, 80.80 - 638/4
Heastine Shewery PLC 111-256 Cum Pri 21 180
H88cdown Hidge PLO ADR4411 - 811

180
Histoom Hidge PLD ADRIA11 - 811
Housing Finance Corporation Ld 111/2% Deb Six 2016 - £1175- 12 (44686)
IS Himstoyan Fund INV Ord FLD.01 - 5141, leatend Group PLD Cray Cum Red Prf 20p - 1141/2 (5 Plingworth, Monte Ld 61/2% Cum 2nd Prf 856 T1 - 52 (44666)
Inch Kenneth Kagning Rubber PLC 10p - £10.1 (44666)

E10.1 (4App8)
Industrial Control Services Grp PLCOrd 10p 87 100
Irish Life PLC Ord Irt0.10 - 34 p 259 80 3
Johnson Group Cleaners PLC 7.5p (Net) Griv
Cum Red Pri 10p - 144\$ 5\$
Janes, Stroud(Hdga) PLC 10% Cum Pri £1 115 Jurys Hotel Group PLC Ord MODER - M24, (9Apple) (SApsis) Notor Group PLG 4.894 (Finly 7%)
Cum Pf £1 - 74
Ringfisher PLC ADR (£1) - \$17%
Ringfisher PLC ADR (£1) - \$17%
Ringfisher PLC ADR (£1) - \$17%
Ringfisher PLC ADR (£1) - \$180.10
(Opn 8) - \$3937/2 4057/2 4167/2
(Vestermer ASA A Ste MK12.50) - N6C448/2 7/2
-58 .62 .7 8.62 50.63
Lactorole Group PLC ADR (11) - 453.73
(104,695)
Lamont Hidge PLC 10% Srd Cum Pri £1 108

Land Securities FLC 9% 1st Mtp Deb 8tk 98

Land Securities PLC 9% 1st Mtg Deb 86: 68/ 2001 - E1001₂ LASMO PLC 101/56 Deb Sit 2008 - E1027₃ Lammanisament PLC for Care Mt C1 - Ms Leets & Holbeck Building Society 131/56 Permi Int Bearray She 17000 - E137¹/₃6 I₄ Leets 101/10 PLC 59/10 t Cum Ph Sh E1 - 56 (104/56) Lawis (John) Purmerinio PLC 19/4 Cum Pri Sh E1 - 57 GA:p80 Lax Service PLC 61/2% Cum Pri E1 - 50 (104/56) Literial PLC 3.596 Cum Pri E1 - 50 (104/56) (10App8) Lonto PLC ADR (1:1) - 53¹s Lockers PLC 8% City Cum Red Prf £1 - 88 MEPC PLC 3.65% Cum Prf Stk £1 - 47

(10App6) MEPC PLC 12% 1st Mitg Deb Stk 2017 -୍ୟ ମୟମର MEPC PLC 8% Una La Six 2000/05 -2971₂\$ MEPC PLC 101₂% Uns Ln Sak 2032 - £109 ECONOMY Properties PLC "A" Ord MED1.10 -IEO.0525 (10App6) Islances Fund (Cayman) Ld Ptg Shs \$0.01 -\$17 (10Ap96)
Maries & Spencer PLC ACH (\$21) - \$40.16
(10Ap96)
Maries PLC 117/2% Deb Sik 2009 - \$1181/2

Martiey PLC 11% No Deb Str. 2009 - E11812 (2Ac96)
Medicar PLC ADR (4:1) - E9.6579
Merchart Read Group PLC 83,4% Uns Ln Str. 2506 - 600 (1456)
Mertvain Moore PLC 1012% 1st Mig Deb Str. 2220 - E10212 (AAc96)
Mertvain Moore PLC 1012% 1st Mig Deb Str. 2220 - E10212 (AAc96)
Mertvey Docks & Harbour Co 63,5% Red Deb Str. 9269 - E9712 (10Ac96)
Mergy Docks & Harbour Co 31,5% Ind Deb Str. - E276
Mediand Bank PLC 14% Subord Uns Ln Str. 2002/07 - E12512 (BAc96)
Morgan Sindes PLC 9.62596 Cav Cum Red Prf E1 - 65 12 (BAc96)

NFC PLG 74% Griv Bds 2007(Fleg) - 2881₂ 94, National Westminster Bank PLC 916 Non-Care Sing Pri Sers "A" E1 - 110 %, 12 National Westminster Bank PLC 122 % Bubord Una Lin Sik 2004 - £122 %, (104,986) Newcaste Building Society 12 % Perth Infarent Bearing Sins £1000 - £134 12 News International PLC 916 2nd Cum Pri £1

- 79½
North East Weber PLC 4.25% Red Deb Stk.
2012 - 158½ [4/500]
Northern Foods PLC 8½% Cnv Subord Bots
2008 [Reg] - 105
Northern Foods PLC 6½% Cnv Subord Bots
2008 [Sr £ Var] - 158½ [4/4,500]
Northern Rock Building Society 125% Perm
Int Bearing Sits 21000 - £135 ½ ½
Ortais PLC Ord 10p - 39 42
Pacific Gas 8 Electric Co She of Com Stk \$5
- \$20

Parties Securities PLC Was to each for Old -6
Paristand Group PLC Ord 25p - 165
Pascoc's Group PLC 7.5% One Cum Red Pri
5p - 128 (104cs)
Ped Hidgs PLC 976 % 1st May Deb Sox 2011
- 5101 % 24 Peel South East Ld 84% Uns Ln Stk 87/97 -Personaler & Calental Steam New Co 51% Cum Pld Six + 558 Perions Poots PLC BolNet) Cum Onv Red Pri 10p - 97 101 2 Pernolan S.A. Ond She NPV (Br in Denom 1,5 & 10) - 189/758\$\frac{1}{2} 70 3.8 & 27 83.8 Plantation & General Invis PLC 9\frac{1}{2}% Cum Med Pri Dr - 123 Personaler IP Dr - 124 Six 80 05 Second & CHESTEL SCHOOL PROV CO SW CLIM

and (C.P.) Co Ld She \$0.05 (Hong Poliphand (D.P.) Co Ld Sha \$0.05 [Hong Kong Registered : \$4.177 (104-266) Polipharansa Platinuma Ld Ord H0.028 - \$15 (\$456) Powel Duffyn PLC 44-% Cum Prf 50p - 24 Cuarto Group Inc 8.75p/fet) CrtvGumRedSha of Pfa 8tk 50.10 - 168 (440-68) Cueens Most Houses PLC 12% 1st Mtg Dab Sik 2013 - 255-2 (84p-68) Cueens Most Houses PLC 104-% 1st Mtg Dab Sha 2020 - 1032 Cuetas Most Houses PLC 104-% 1st Mtg Dab Sha 2020 - 1032 Cuetas Group PLC 1096 Cum Prf \$1 - 106 10 (84p-69) FIFH Ld 9% Line Ln 9tk 89/2004 - 210012

(ACSS) HTZ Corporation PLC 1194 To Quen Fri 21(Reg) - 500 Racal Bectronics PLC ADR (2:1) - 98.85 .8 Placal Electronics PLC ADR (2:1) - \$9.85.28 Rank Organisation PLC ADR (2:1) - \$15% \$ Richards PLC 4% Cum Pfd £1 - 45 (10Ap96) Rohr Inc Sha of Com Stk \$1 - £11.6 (10Ap96) Romson PLC Ord Sp - 45 6½ 7 8 Ropner PLC 11½% Cum Prf £1 - 117 Poyal Insurance Holdings PLC 74% Criv Subcred Bds 2007 (Br £ Var) - £126/2¢ Rugby Group PLC 8% Uns Ln Stit 93/98 596 74 (10/468) Seinsbury(J) PLC ADR (4:1) - \$22.23

Scholl PLC 8794 Curr Red Pri 2001/05 Et -Scholl PLC 51/2% Criv Cum Red Pri 2006/11 21 - 88 9 (10Ap96) Scottish & Newcastle PLC 4.6% Cum Pri 21 - 15 PA466 Rentlish & Newcastle PLC 4.6% Cum Pri 21 - 58 PA4666 Rentlish & Newcastle PLC 4.65% Cum Pri 21 - 58 PA4666 Scotti PLC 7½% Una Ln 584 92/97 - 258½

(SASS) Shanghai Fund (Caymen) Lt Prog Shs 90.01 - so vigo Shell Transport&TrackingCo PLC 5¹2% 1st PWCordC1 - W/ Shelld Group PLC Ont 5p - 5¹4 (84) (85)

Shapid Ghap PLC Ond So - 5½ Shapid Shapine Group PLC Ond So - 7½ 8 Shapine Finance (M) PLC 7.575pNei) Cum Aed Pri Sha 2009 - 71 Schere Group PLC 7½% Uns Lin Sok 2003/08 - 105½ (MoSE) Signer Group PLC ADR (Dr.1) - 51.48 Signer & Fredericher Group PLC 8.5% Chris Subord Unis Lin Sok 2008/14 - \$1.24½ Subord Unis Lin Sok 2008/14 - \$1.24½ Subord Unis Lin Sok 2008/14 - \$1.24½ Substant Building Society 127/16 Perm Int Bearing Shs E1000 - 2137/1/2 24, 1/2 Smith & Naphew PLC 3.85%(Net) Cum Pri 21

Smith (W.H.) Group PLC 54/% Red Uns Ln Std - 555 mithKine Beecham PLC ADR (5:1) -\$52.037045\$ \$22.0370450 SmithKine Beechsm PLC/SmithKine ADR (5:1) - \$50% 1 ¼ 32 ½ ½ South Staffordshire Water PLC 914% Red Date She Wescotti - Erick Tokases Sag Group PLC 11% Cum Prf 21 - 90 (\$4996) Sandard Chartered PLC 12% Subcod Ung Ln 98, 2002/07 - 218% (104-68)

Ln St. 2002/07 - 2118¹c (10Ap86) Substiffe Speakman PLC 9¹2¹6 Red Cum Prf £1 - 96¢ £1 - 98¢
TSB Group PLC 10⁵2% Subord La Sti; 2008
- £112 (10Ac66)
TT Group PLC 10.875% Chv Curn Red Pri
Stat £1 1997 - 370 8
Triple Filled UNID (DCF to Br) - \$78750\$
80000\$
Teleare PLC 11.8% 1st Mag Data Stic 2014 £110 (44c96) E:10 (44;68)
Tab & Lyle PLC ADR (4:1) - \$30,17
Tate & Lyle PLC 6½%(4,55% plus tax credity/cum Pri E: - 68 (44;65)
Taylor Woodnew PLC 9½% Ist Mig Deb Sit 2014 - \$102½ (44;66)
Tesco PLC ADR (1:1) - 54,28
Tesco PLC 4% Uns Deep Disc Ln Six 2006 - 5313

1083 Trail Prime Fund Ld Ptg Red Pri \$0.01 -\$18¹2 TROOM BUI PLC ADR (111) - \$24.86 3.34 Tops Estates PLC 10 2011/16 - 2105% 2017/16 - 1:105/2 Town Centre Securities PLC 105/2 fe 1et Mag , Deb Six 2021 - 1:105/2 (9Ap86) Tratager House PLC 8% Uns Ln Six 94/88 -

Traitaiger House PLC 912% Uns Ln Sik 2009/ 05 - 290@ Traitaiger House PLC 1014% Uns Ln Sik 2001/05 - 594 Transattemic Holdings PLC B 6% Cnv Prf C1 - 91
Transport Development Group PLC 84%
Uns Ln Sti: 99/98 - 198½ (0Apt/9)
Unigate PLC ADR (1:1) - \$5.4¢
Uniferer PLC ADR (4:1) - 274.9875¢
Unisys Corp Con Sti: 90.01 - 354, (9Apt/9)
Vaxx Group PLC 11 ½% Deb Sti: 2010 -

Victoria PLC 5% PriPNon-Cum(Sik 21 - 45 es PLC 5% Cum(Tax Free To SUP)Pri SR ET - 54
Vacintone Group PLC ADR(10:1) - 525.3 25³s
5.39.05 ³z .15 .28
Voles Group PLC 4.3% (Fmly 7%) Curti PH
51 - 67 (BAp86)
Wagon Industrial Hidgs PLC 7.25p 6469 Cmv
Ptg PH 10p - 122
Welfer Grouphopte ELC 64.5% Cmv Carti Red

Triggers (up - 122)
Wester Greenbenk PLC 612% Criv Cum Red
Pri 25p - 130 (104;86)
Westung (S.G.) Group PLC 75;1% Cum Pri E1
- 10 64;500 Valmougte@Stock PLG 81/96 Curn Red Prf 2006 21 - 108 MAGNE Neits Fargo & Company She of Com Sta \$5 -\$245% Wereldsive Property Corp PLC 9.5% 1st Mtg Data Bit 2015 - \$100 Westand Group PLC 12-1% Deb Six 2008 - 5724 (10App8)

nd PLC 412% Red Deb Stk 99/2004 -Nithmad PLC 714% Uns Ln Sik 95/99 - 137 Whithread PLC 5% Uns Ln Six 97/2001 - E112%, (44,086) Whithread PLC 101₂% Uns Ln Six 2000/05 - £1081₂ (104,086) (4Ap86) Widney PLC 8.78% Criv Cum Red 2nd Pri

Williams Hidgs PLC 104/16 Cum Pri \$1 - 122 ambia Consolidated Copper Mines Ld*8* Ord K10 • 60 (10Ac66)

Investment Trusts

Anglo & Overseas Trust PLC 412% Curt Pri Str. - £45 Anglo & Overseas Trust PLC 8.6% Deb 8th 2020 - 695¹2 BZW Endowment Fund Ltd Redestrable Ord 1p - 134 5 ½ 6½ Beille Gifford Shirs Nippon PLC Warrants to sub for Ord - 82 (BASSIQ Bailde Gifford Shin Nippon PLC Warrants to sub for Ord 2005 - 45 (10ApSIQ Boronsmand Investments Trust PLC Was to sub for Ord - 94 2

Beronsmand Investments Trust PLC v sub for Ord - 26 7 British Assets Trust PLC 'A' 5% Pri SACAM DESCRIPTION Exitish Assets Trust PLC Equation Index ULS 2005 10p - 183½ (10ApS6) British Expire Sec & Central TetPLC10³514 Deb Sit 2011 - C111³2 (ApS6) Cepital George Trust PLC Ord 25p - 570 80 (10ApS6) English & Scottish Investors PLC 181 250 • 149 (SAp96)

English & Scotters Wheters PLC Squity Linked
149 (SASPS)
Heathy European Values PLC Squity Linked
Uns Lr Str 2001 - 168 (SASPS)
Firsbury Smaller Co's Trust PLC Zero Div Pri
25p - 219 12
Raming Mercantile Inv Trust PLC 2.8% Cum
Pri Str 21 - 42 (10Apps)
Feming Mercantile Inv Trust PLC 41/% Perp
Deb Str - 246 (4Apps)
Foreign & Col Invest Trust PLC 3.5% (Fmby
34) Cum Pri Str 21 - 51 (10Apps)
Gustmore British Inc & Grit Tet PLCZero Divitional Pri 10p - 132;
Gestmore Shared Squity Trust PLC Geered
Ord Inc 10p - 78, 2853
Geered for Investmont Trust PLC Col Cri Crd St leared inc investment Trust PLC "C" Ord SI + 91 (104-08)

- 91 (10456)
179 Jopanese Smaller Co's Trust PLCOrd
25p - 10012 1 1 14 12 12 14 16 8 2 2 3
tembras Investment Trust PLC SigN Cum
Pri SN - 2300
jospur Investments PLC Ord £1 - 650 Hotspur Investments PLC Ord £1 - 650 INVESCO English & Ind, Trust PLC 8.875% Cum Pri £1 - 107 (4A,986) Investors Capital Trust PLC 7½ % Dep Ser 92/97 - 21001 2 JF Hedgeting Japan Ld Warrants to sub for Ord - 3112 212 Reinvest Charter Inv Trust PLC 4% Cum Pri Ester Seated Investment Trust Ld Ptg Red Pri 0.1p Global Active Fund - £16.09 16.11 ISAA968

(SApS6) Lazerd Select investment Trust Ld Ptg Red Ptf 0.1p LLK: Llguid Assets Fund - 210 (SApS6) Lazerd Select Investment Trust Ld Ptg Red Ptf 0.1p LUK, Index Fund - 217,84 17,86 (SApS6) stand Select Investment Trist Ld Pty Red Prf 0.1p Japan Index Pund - 858.3 50.2 (9Ap36) azard Select Investment Trust Lo Ptg Red Pri 0.1p Burgpe Index Fund - 021.35 21.37 (BA086) Lezard Smaller Equation Inv Tet PLCCum Red Stepped Capped Pri \$1 - 158 (SA096)

leel-good Landon & St Lawrence in 5p - 16t (10Ap96) Morgan Grentell Latin sub for Ord - 2412 Some Trees PLC 4% Det Str -

Perbas French Investment Trust PLCGers "8" Warrants to sub for Ord - 20

Schroder Korea Fund PLC: Ond \$0.01 (Br) -\$121₂ (DAp**96**) Schrodor Kores Fund PLG Was to Sub for Ond (8r) - \$4 (44696) Scottish Eastern Inv Youst PLC 41/16 Cum Pri Std - C4b (4Ap89) Scotten Morpage & Trust PLC 8%-14% Stepped Interest Den 5th 2020 - \$148 (4ACR)

Shares Smaller Co's PLC Wills to Sub lot Ord 41 (BADBS) TR City of London Trust PLC 194/96 Data Str 2020 - C1104: (SAp28) Tomple Bar Investmers Trust PLC 7% Cum Pri Stk 21 - 73 (10Ap96) Lipdown Arvestreant Co PLC Ont 25p - 870 (BAp9G) Wilgmore Property Investment Tat PLCWits to Sub for Ont - 15 Witan Investment Co PLC 8% Data Six 98/00

Witten Invastment Co PLC 81/2% Dab Str. 2015 - 29714 Witten Investment Co PLC 84% Even Box 2005 Comment Co PLC 84% Even Box Witton investment Co PLC 64 % Each Box 2008 (Br E Var) - 2110/2 (104096)

Miscellaneous Warrants James Capel Financial Products Call Wis Filig Bask, UK Fin Co's - \$1 997 (4/2006) USM Appendix

Reflex Group PLG Ord MOD.05 - 12 (10App) Sterling Publishing Group PLC 6% Criv Cum Red Pri 2000 £1 - 65 (10Appe)

Dicom Group 310,305 (3-4) rina & Mercandie Secs 128 /10.4

ten Pride 35,25 (4.4)

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Competitors

Markets

Customers

Background Research

For full details please

FT Business Research Centre,

Tel: +44 (0)171 873 4102

Fax: +44 (0) 171 873 3069

contact

Nick Aldrich.

Number One

Financial Times.

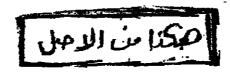
Southwark Bridge.

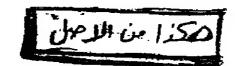
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LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

The feel-good factor returns to UK equities

By Steve Thompson. LIK Stock Market Editor

The scent of more takeover bids. and a general feeling of relief that Thursday's initial 70 point slide in the Dow Jones Industrial Average proved only temporary enabled London's equity market to regain its poise yesterday.

And with Wall Street putting on a good show at the outset of trading in the US, following more comforting economic data, the FT-SE 100 index built on a solid opening to end only fractionally short of the day's best level

It closed a net 22.6 up at 3,766.8, and in the process recouped losses

Vol. Closing Day's 000s price change

FT - SE Actuaries Share Indices

Hourty movements

b of FT-SE 100 High: 4.27 PM Last 11:05 AM

SE Mid 250

3 & Cristron

M. Recoll

E 100 € Mid 250 & as LT s €-A 350

-A 350 Higher Yold -A 350 Lower Yield

TRADING VOLUME IN MAJOR STOCKS

PAOT

nade earlier in the week when markets were struggling to resist a market was again driven higher by series of big falls on Wall Street. a persistent flow of new money Over a week during which Wall . Street fell over 200 points in three trading sessions, the Footsle showed an impressive 11.2 gain.

The FT-SE Mid 250 index continued its strong performance, moving up 17.5 to 4,408.0, yet another all-time high. Over the past four sessions, the Mid has risen 22.7 points.

The Conservative Party's latest by-election humbling, in South East Staffordshire, came as no shock at all to traders, who had already factored in the worst possible outcome of the election.

2,100 4,200 413 1,400 413 1,400 413 1,400 413 1,400 413 1,400 41,500 1,4

On a more fundamental basis, the coming in. Dealers said the big institutions had continued to pump resources into the market reflecting a sharp increase in personal equity

plan purchases. There was talk yesterday that at least two, and possibly more, pro-gramme trades had been executed. Programme trade activity has been a feature this week, helping to boost turnover in equities.

Activity yesterday was well up on normal levels, eventually reaching 942.1m shares by 6pm. Non-FT-SE 100 stocks accounted for around 55 per cent of the total.

house prices had risen by an average 1.2 per cent last month, saw the equity market off to a strong start. And a well-sourced report that

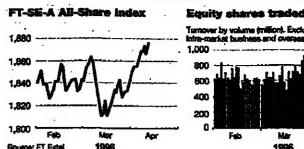
bids for two of the regional electricity stocks by the generators, PowerGen and National Power, would be given the go-shead by the Department of Trade and Industry, plus reports that Deutsche Telekom might yet still bid for Cable & Wireless, the telecoms group, provided additional impetus for the market.

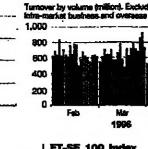
Later, good early performances from US shares and bonds, after satisfactory inflation and retail sales news, provided further encourage-

The startling recovery by Wall ment for London. Gilts ended the Street overnight, and news that UK session around % higher, another session around % higher, another bull point for equities.

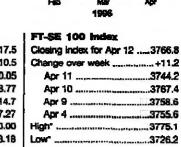
Building related stocks provided the best performers in both the FT-SE 100 and FT-SE Mid 250 indices. In the premier index, RMC topped the performance table, responding to growing hopes that another cut in German interest rates may soon materialise and ahead of preliminary figures next Thursday. Beazer Homes outpaced the other FT-SE Mid 250 stocks.

There were big gains across the regional electricity stocks, where the market is now bracing itself for more takeover bids which dealers expect sooner rather than later.





Source: FT Extel 199	6 .		
Indices and ratios			FT-SE 100
FT-SE Mid 250	4408.0	+17.5	Closing index
FT-SE-A 350	1897.9	+10.5	Change over
FT-SE-A All-Share	1876.50	+10.05	Apr 11
FT-SE-A All-Share yield	3.75	3.77	Apr 10
FT Ordinary Index	2804.4	+14.7	Apr 9
FT-SE-A Non Fins p/e	17.37	17.27	Apr 4
FT-SE 100 Fut Jun	3770.00	+30.00	High"
10 yr Gilt yield	8.06	8.18	Low"
Long glit/equity yld ratio:	2.23	2.24	"Intra-day high



436 105% 4867 10

Stock index futures rebounded Premium at the close was five points in excess of cash, or 11 points short of the middle smertly to close with the FT-SE 100 June contract little changed after a week of range of fair value estimates. volatile trading, writes Jeffrey Total turnover in traded Volume fell short of 10,000

EQUITY FUTURES AND OPTIONS TRADING

lots and the premium stayed weak. But the broad mood was said to have shown a clear improvement and at the end of pit trading, the June contract stood at 3,769.

This was a gain of 29 points on the day and a net decline

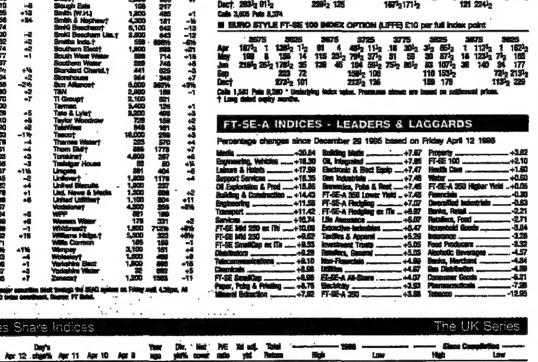
S-Kline profit

options was 34,200 lots, and once again puts business comfortably outstripped calls. Telecoms groups BT and Cable and Wireless were the most actively traded stock options, racking up 5,200 lots between them.

Commercial Union, Asda and BP were all well dealt, topping

	 Open 	Sett price	Change	High	Low	Est. vol	Open int
Jun	3762.0	3770.0	+30.0	3778.0	3751.0	10144	59740
Sept	3768.0	3780.0	+31.0	3780.0	3766.0	61	2440
Dec		3805.0	430.0	-		G	31
E FT-SE	MTD 250 IN	DEX FUTUR	USS (LIFFE	£10 per k	d index po	ind.	
Juna .	4423.0	4423.0	+7.0	4423.0	4429.0	25	3589

| Section | Sect IN SURIO STYLE FT-SE 100 INDEX OPTION (LIFFE) \$10 per full index FT-SE-A INDICES - LEADERS & LAGGARDS Percentage changes since December 29 1995 based on Priday April 12 1995 +7.87 Property Yester FT-SE-A 350 Higher Yield Ficencials Directified Industri Banks, Retail Retailers, Food Housebold Ecods FT-SE-A Redging _____+7.07 FT-SE-A Redging on Tin __+6.97 Services +10.74 Life Assurance FT-SE Mid 200 ex (Tri +10.09 Estractive industrie FT-SE Mid 250 +9.62 Taxtiles & Apparal Food Prod holic Bev



18.10

3794.6 4406.8 1898.9

Close

4692.0

2179.6 3997.6

3767.1 4409.2 1898.0

Previous

4722.6

५५५ - ५५७ । इ.स. हा इनका स्रामा एका आहर संस्था ।

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15.00

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4677.8 2174.7

13.00

9754,4 4402.9 1892,6

1194.7 4990.5 2167.0

11.00

3751.8 4404.6 1891.7

12.00

11927

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T-SE Activities Share indices are calculated by FT-SE international Limited on conjunction with the Faculty of Actuaries and the treatment of Actuaries. © FT-SE international Limited by FT-SE international Limited on conjunction with the Faculty of Actuaries and the treatment of Actuaries conjunction with the Faculty of Actuaries and the treatment of the Conjunction with a standard set of growing rules established by FT-SE international Limited or conjunction with the Faculty of Actuaries and the institute of T-SE international Limited and ender the conjunction with the Faculty of Actuaries and the institute of the Conjunction Stock Exchange and The Faculty Types Limited and are used by FT-SE International Limited and ender the conjunction of t

Base Base date value

11-00

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3752.1 4403.5 1891.7

13.00

1195.2

4585.1 2167.0

Equity section or group

9.00

3756.7 4405.1 1883.7

4705.4 2158.3

31/12/85 1000.00 Electricity 31/12/85 1412/59 Wester 31/12/85 682/94 Non-Financials 31/12/85 682/94 All Other

Opes

FT-SE Actuaries 350 Industry backets

Open

1174.6

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Base Sase data value

ASTRONOM TO THE PARTY OF THE PA

3757.7 4397.3 1883.3

10.00

3755.6

4407.4

10.00

1190.6

Equity section or group

15.00

3757.7

4403.8

1893.9

16.10

1194.7

4687.5

2179.1 3997.6

Low/day

3750.1 4397.3 1891.0

Change

-30.6

+29.7 +26.0

concerns

SmithKline Beecham fell 13 to 642n in the 'A' shares, making a slide of nearly 7 per cent over to worry about the forthcoming figures.

The company is to announce first quarter profits on Thursday and has been having chats with pharmaceuticals analysts in an attempt to damp down their enthusias It has pointed out that earn-

ings will suffer in comparison with a very strong first quarter last veer and because buvers were stocking up last Decem-ber on worries that SmithKline was poised to raise its prices. The new consensus forecast

£375m and £380m. There is also some pressure on the stock ahead of the harmonisation of SmithKline's Units and shares which will lead to a cash handout for US holders and a scrip dividend

among analysts is between

Powers surge

for UK holders.

There was a power surge in the electricity sector following a leak that the monopolies commission has cleared the way for further bids.

Apparently authoritative coverage in the Economist tied in with what sector specialists had been thinking for some time and led to share price hikes in the bidders under review - PowerGen and National Power - which rose 13% to 562%p and 14 to 492p respectively.

The companies they have bid for - Southern and Midlands were also up but the main game in the sector was, as always, picking the next lucky

Four Recs still retain their independence although one of them - Northern - is looking expensive after successfully fighting off an unwelcome approach from Trafalgar House. Of the remaining three, the market appeared to be putting its money on Rast Midlands, which saw its share price jump 34 to 658p. Mr Adam Forsyth, electricity

NEW 52 WEEK HIGHS AND LOWS

NEW MORES (1885.
GELTS (1) ALCOHOLIC SEMERAGES (2) Non-Browny, Makhaw Cark, RREWENER, PURS A MOST OR City Centre Restauants, Enlarguise—— Punks & CHETRIN (18) SENSON, MARTINE CLIFIC BENEFICES, F REST ST CITY CARTER BASELERIS, STAIN ITEM, Greene King, BLELDERG & CHETR SLDG MATLS & MCHTS (2) Blue Cityle CHEMICALS (1) AGA AB, DISTRIBUTORS (8) Comis, Depochers Mosses, Farnel Elec, Finelist, Headlinn, Henlys, Northember, Sanderson Bramell, Wholesele Fittings, DIVERSISTED INDLS DI BUSCIENCITY (2) Northern, Yorkelin BUSCIENC & BUSCI SOUP (2) Micro-

******C, ENGREESING IN ENG, VERCLES (1) INCL EXTRACTIVE INDS (14) FOOD Listet, ECTRACTIVE BIDS (14) FOOD
PRODUCESTS (2) Kery Orner A. Ten A. Lyle
7kp Cerr Pri, HEALTH CARE (1) Cere UK,
HOUSEHOLD GOODS (2) Charchill Chine,
Derby, Waterlord Wedgwood, BWESTMENT
TRUSTS (6) ROYSSTHEET COMPANIES (8)
LISBURE 2. HOTELS (9) Manchaster List
Not/Ben Leisure, Clusens Most Houses, Savoy
A. MEDIA (9) Barbor Index, Matcl Solden,
Pecston, Television Corps, Thomson Corp.
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analyst with NatWest Securities, had the luck and judgment to issue research yesterday arguing that he expected

MMC clearance. He said: "I have a list of about 18 companies which have been mentioned as possible bidders. On a simple 'no smoke without fire basis it seems likely that there will be

more bids to come."

Tesco gained ground ahead of next Tuesday's results statement following switch advice from several leading brokers. Both Credit Lyonnais Laing and SGST urged clients to move out of J. Sainsbury and buy Tesco. Laing expects

Sainsbury to hit problems with US trading and says Tesco's plans for a £20m sales promotion in the UK will cause its main rival to "play increasingly off the back foot".

Tesco added 3 to 288p while

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Sainsbury closed all square at 375p after early losses of a

penny. Cable and Wireless shot forward in above average turn-over and against a background of heavy derivatives trading, following suggestions that Deutsche Telekom had thrown its hat into the takeover ring.

C&W is currently talking to BT, ostensibly about a reverse takeover. At a dinner in Frankfurt on Thursday Mr Joachim Kroeske, Telekom's finance director, was reported to have told journalists that Telekom was prepared to step in and

make it a three-cornered fight. C&W shares surged 16 in early trading before slipping back to a closing gain of 9 at 535p, in turnover of 9.8m.

However, most analysts in London thought a bid from the German telecoms giant was a distinctly long shot. "At least Mr Kroeske's remarks do underline the basic

attraction of C&W as a global telecoms entity", said one top sector watcher. Building-related stocks con-

tinued to hog the performance headlines with RMC and Redland taking the first two places in the Footsie charts and Beazer Homes topping the FT-SE Mid 250 rankings. The sector has been in demand all week, underpinned

by mortgage price wars and clear signs of a revival in the UK housing market. RMC jumped nearly 5 per cent, adding 47 at 1069p, as talk suggested that one leading marketmaker was actively bidding for stock.

Redland added 14 to 403p. Beazer gained 12 to 201p and Hepworth put on 14 to 297p. Sharp falls in first quarter figures from two US paper companies hit Rexam and Arjo Wiggins Appleton yesterday. Rexam fell 2 to 404p and Arjo

8% to 183%n. British Aerospace shot forward 15 to 872p following buy notes from SBC Warburg and Panmure Gordon. Panmure has gently upgraded profits for this year and next to reflect "the rapidly improving margins being achieved on Airbus

work". Chocolate and soft drinks giant Cadbury-Schweppes rounded off a strong week with a gain of 12 to 504p in above average volume of 6.6m. Kleinwort Benson is the latest bro-

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ker to upgrade earnings estimates.

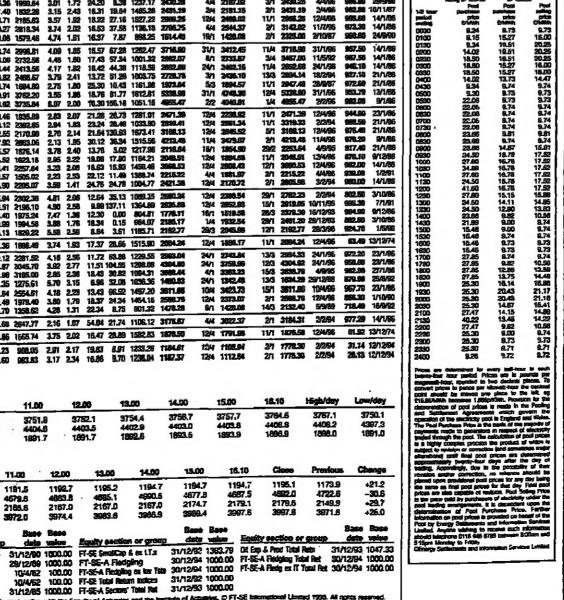
Lourbo came off sharply on the news that mining giant Anglo American Corporation had negotiated a price of between 180p and 220p a share on its option to buy a further 18.4 per cent of the international conglomerate. The market was said to have pencilled in a deal at 250p. Lonrho retreated 5½ to 207½p. Matthew Clark, the UK's

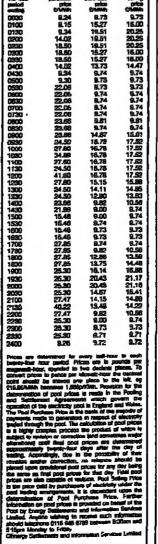
seventh largest drinks producer, jumped 16% to 761p on the basis of a buy note from Credit Lyonnais Laing, which said the stock was fundamentally undervalued.

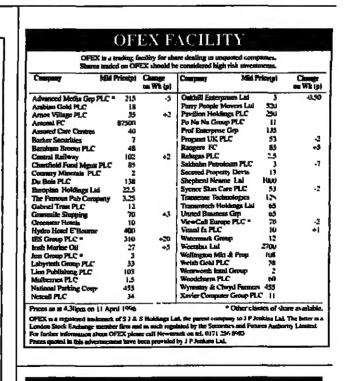
The announcement by Greenalls, the Warringtonbased pubs group, that it was contracting out its distribution of beer to Wincanton, a subsidiary of Unigate, helped push the price 2 to 590p. Elsewhere in the drinks sector, Bass went up 14 to 760 on the basis of rumours from Denmark that the UK brewer, which is in talks to acquire Carlsberg-Tetley, might acquire it more cheaply than the market

thought. Rumours that Boots and W H Smith had found a buyer for Do-It-All, their troubled joint venture, were squashed by analysts who said that W H Smith's share price would have risen more if there was any truth in the speculation. W. H. Smith rose 1 to 485p.

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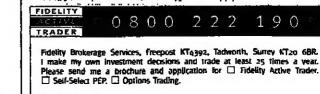








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Anglo-American tightens grip on Lonrho's mining operations

By Kenneth Gooding,

Lourho, the UK conglomerate, yesterday effectively handed potential future operational control of its mining interests to Anglo American Corporation, South Africa's biggest company, in a deal which will have repercussions throughout the mining

industry.
Mr Dieter Bock, Lonrho's chief executive, who sold Anglo a 5.9 per cent stake in the group for £91m (\$138m) last month, has now given it the right to buy his remaining 18.4 per cent by mid-September 1997 for 180p to 220p a share. Lonrho shares closed yesterday down 51/2p at 2071/2p.

Lonrho intends to demerge its mining interests. Any cash resulting from the sale of Mr Bock's holding will be reinvested

Swiss banks

pleased if a large portion of the

independent votes went against Mr Studer. At the last sharehold-

Continued from Page 1

In the meantime, Anglo is to pro-vide technical and other miningrelated services to Lonrho, and a senior technical director of Anglo will join the Lonrho board. Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson

Anglo's chairman, said his group had bought more Lourho shares last week at a slight discount to the market price to take the group's holding to 7.5 per cent. He insisted Anglo did not intend to bid for the rest of Lonrho and had no plans to take control of the mining interests

when they were demerged.
Nevertheless, the inexorable tightening of Anglo's grip on Lonrho's mining assets will cause consternation at Gencor, another South African mining group that already has close links with Lonrho, and at

interests, which include growing Ghanaian gold group in hotels, trading and agriculture. which Lonrho has a 37 per cent stake and which is widely believed to be Anglo's main target. Gencor already owns 27 per cent of Lonrho's South African platinum business and had hoped to arrange a full merger between its Impala Platinum offshoot and

the Lonrho operations. This sparked a probe by the European Commission. Anglo's intervention will heighten concern because Anglo effectively controls Rustenburg, the western world's biggest platinum pro-

Mr Ogilvie Thompson said Anglo had been contacted by the Commission in connection with the inquiry. He did not think the new Anglo-Lonrho links should affect the Commission's investigation because, even if Anglo took its Lonrho holding to 26 per

He said Anglo had not contacted Gencor about the Lombo link but he had recently had dinner with Mr Sam Jonah, Ashantt's chief executive and a Lonrho director, who was "happy with the arrangements".

Analysts suggest this might have been a diplomatic reaction by Mr Jonah who has indicated in the past that he wants to build an independent Ashanti into one of the world's biggest gold mining companies.

A Lonrho official said the closer links with Anglo should make the mining operations stronger and speed up the demar-ger. Mr Bock said: "It is in the best interests of Lombo's mining business to have this commitment from Anglo."

Rivals eye Lonrho's gems, Page 6

Britain set to clear renewed bids for electricity groups

ers' meeting, more than half the votes cast were proxies held by fund managers. UBS directors have more than once used determined tactics to gain shareholder votes and to question the motives of those who do not support them in their

long struggle with Mr Ebner. In the run-up to a shareholders' meeting in November, 1994, they sent two letters to employees urging them to give unconditional proxies to the directors. Employees hold about 7 per cent of the total votes. They also hinted that Mr Ebner's BZ Bank was improperly using proxies of clients to vote against the board.

Under Swiss law, fund managers are not obliged to vote clients' shares unless specific instructions are received. But if they do vote shares on which no instructions have been received. they must vote them in favour of board motions.

CS Holding said yesterday it would be voting its general proxies in favour of the board's proposals as usual. UBS has sent letters to large Swiss institutional investors, asking them if tion with other UBS shareholdBy David Wighton in London

Mr Ian Lang, UK trade secretary, is expected to clear National Power and PowerGen to renew their bids for Southern Electric and Midlands Electricity after the Monopolies and Mergers Commission gave its conditional

The London Stock Exchange yesterday launched an inquiry into the leaking of the MMC's report on the bids to the Economist magazine which led to share price rises throughout the sector. The Department of Trade and Industry last night threatened the Economist with an injunction in an attempt to prevent further disclosures. The draft version obtained by the paper contains commercially confidential information which would not appear in the published document.

The report, which was passed to Mr Lang two weeks ago, rec-ommends the bids by National Power and PowerGen be cleared subject to relatively minor conditions. But one of the five panel members has submitted a minority report calling for the bids to be blocked because they would tend to reduce competition and increase electricity prices.

Ms Patricia Hodgson, director of policy and planning at the BBC, argued that "the price of electricity is of such importance for the standard of living of con-sumers and the health of the economy as a whole that the balance of public interest would be to encourage further competi-

The rest of the panel, headed by Mr Graeme Odgers, the former BT managing director who now chairs the MMC, concluded that if allowed through without condi-tions the bids "may be expected to operate against the public interest". But they decided that subject to three main conditions, the detriment to the public interest would not be sufficient to justify blocking the bids.

The report said one benefit of the takeovers would be that each of the merged companies would be "a more effective international competitor, partly through increased size and partly because it would possess a wider range of skills and experience". The MMC's conclusions were

bitterly criticised by some of the other regional electricity companies which have remained inde pendent after the wave of bids in

officially suspending them in the

wake of suicide bombings by Pal-

MMC seems to have accepted many of the arguments against the bids but come to a wrong conclusion in part because of a misguided interest in creating national champions.

There was mixed reaction from electricity consumer groups. The National Consumer Council said the MMC would be "failing in its duty if it is recommending electricity takeover bids against the public interest" and said they must not go ahead without "strong regulatory protection".

The Energy Intensive Users Group, which represents large industrial customers, said the conditions appeared to meet its objections

National Power and PowerGen would have to sell stakes in independent power stations owned by Southern and Midlands and give undertakings to "ring-fence" information about contracts signed by regional electricity companies with other generators. They would also have to ensure that the regulated business was run separately from the other operations.

Electricity switchback, Page 8

THE LEX COLUMN

Ford takes the wheel

An injection of capital and management from Ford should give a new lease of life to the rusty old model that Mazda has become. As Japan's fifth largest carmaker it has suffered more than larger rivals from the combination of overcapacity, high costs and market saturation. Capacity utilisation at its most modern factory in western Japan is only 45 per cent and the group's vehicle output has almost halved since 1990. That has led to two years of heavy losses, while the recovery to break-even in the latest 12 oths has been achieved only with the help of asset sales.

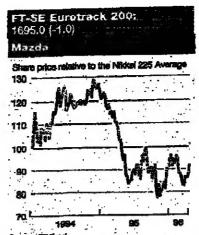
Closer co-operation with Ford will help. Sharing product development, purchasing and some distribution should bring savings. And Mazda has low-cost production sites in south east Asia, saving Ford the trouble of establishing its own. A second level of benefits should come from co-ordinating new model ranges, with Ford likely to use Mazda platforms in Asia, and viceversa in Europe and America. But this rather raises the question of what the two companies have been doing all these years. They have been allies since 1969 and Ford has held a significant equity stake in the Japanese group for nearly 20 years. Most recently. Ford appeared to be distancing itself from its partner by developing its own range of small cars.

For Mazda's other investors it must be galling that Ford is now increasing its stake by buying shares at a 22 per cent discount to the market price and gaining effective management control without launching a full bid. But since the alternative is probably Mazda's demise, they have no other option.

Deutsche Telekom

A Deutsche Telekom takeover of Cable and Wireless is sufficiently farfetched that it is a wonder C&W shares reacted so enthusiastically yesterday. With DM100bn of net debt, Telekom would struggle to pay up. Besides, a reverse takeover by C&W would be impossible - Deutsche is wholly-owned by the German govern-ment - so Telekom would face sub-stantial regulatory hurdles, such as a mandatory takeover of C&W's subsid-iary Hongkong Telecom. The sugges-tion that Telekom might be interested can probably be interpreted as an attempt by an inefficient monopoly to portray itself as something more dynamic in the lead-up to its Novem-

Nonetheless, the rumour raises the issue of whether the UK government would use its golden share to veto any overseas bid for C&W. In the case of



Telekom, it would have a strong argument for doing so. Telekom is a gov ernment monopoly, so C&W would effectively be renationalised via the

backdoor. However, it would find itself ideologically challenged in blocking a bid from, say, AT&T. If it would be acceptable for C&W to sell its UK telecoms business, Mercury, to all-comers, what grounds can there be for blocking a bid for C&W itself?

However, UK government support must be the key to any buyer of C&W retaining its numerous former colonial telecom licences. And the government is bound to prefer the idea of a British Telecommunications/C&W merger. BT would emerge as an international giant, while UK competition would be enhanced by placing C&W's UK arm. Mercury, into stronger hands. In the circumstances, overseas telecoms groups are unlikely to take the risk.

Lonrho

By granting Anglo American Corporation an option over his 18 per cent stake in Lourbo, chief executive Mr Dieter Bock is not doing Lonrho's other shareholders any favours.

If Lourho's demerger into mining and non-mining divisions goes ahead as planned, Anglo will end up with a 28 per cent stake in the mining arm, giving it significant influence. Its preemptive strike has certainly ensured that Lonrho's mining assets will not fall into other hands and its timely intervention may help to scupper the proposed merger of Lonrho's platinum interests with Anglo's rival Gencor. In time, Anglo will almost certainly use Lonrho's collection of assets to expand further into Africa from its South African base. In particular, Lonrho's stake in the Ashanti gold mine in Ghana could become the nub of an African

mining finance house. Despite those benefits, Anglo is paying Mr Bock only a 6 per cent premium to Lonrho's current market price. Lourho argues that without a "big brother" like Anglo. the mining division would be too weak to stand on its own feet. But the speed with which Anglo has snapped up its stake suggests that Lonrho assets might have been attractive to a number of parties. Mr Bock would have done better to hold an auction rather than tying up a rather cosy deal.

buy-backs

UK electricity

So Britain's generators need to get bigger if they are to compete abroad.
That, at any rate, is the Alice in Wonderland logic which has persuaded the
Monopolies and Mergers Commission. to recommend waving through the generators' bids for regional electricity companies (recs). It is surprisingly naive. Nothing is more likely to discourage the generators from compet-ing abroad than the prospect of more market power at home.

This is bad for independent recs.

Allowing integrated businesses into the domestic market, where they will have a competitive advantage, carries grim implications for the supply businesses which account for about 10 per cent of recs' profits. If the regulator could be persuaded, the best option for most recs would probably be to find a buyer for their supply businesses while the going is good, concentrating instead on the much safer business of distribution.

There is not much sign of this threat in the independent recs' share prices. These rose again yesterday, and after allowing for special dividends and the distribution of shares in the National Grid, they have outperformed the market over the period of the MMC enquiry. Bid speculation is running rampant, Bidders, it is argued, have been lurking in the wings, waiting for the MMC to make up its mind. Well. maybe. But the MMC was hardly likely to ban bids from, say, US utili ties, given the number which have already happened. So if foreign buyers have been waiting, all they have achieved is to allow prices to rise yet

Further bids are perfectly possible: apart from anything else, the genera-tors' appetites may not be satisfied with just a single rec. But with all the rec share prices - with the possible exception of Northern Electric looking distinctly frothy, investors should only be in the shares if they want to play the bid guessing-game. If not they should take their profits and switch into the generators.

Israeli helicopters launch fresh attack on Beirut suburbs

FT WEATHER GUIDE

prime minister, who yesterday promised to continue the campaign "as long as is necessary". Mr Peres, who faces a national election on May 29, has been under pressure to prove his government is tough on terrorism bombings within Israel. He said Hizbollah should not

civilians were killed and 35 wounded by Israeli attacks, while Israeli reports said four of its citizens were wounded by the

Hizbollah rockets. The conflict has prompted the evacuation of homes in northern Israel and southern Lebanon, where residents of 40 villages were advised to leave by the Israeli army. Most of the 25,000 residents of

Kiryat Shmona, the main town in northern Israel, have fled. The Israeli campaign has yet

estinian Islamists six weeks pushes in southern Lebanon, but the involvement of Syrian troops risks a further escalation of the conflict. The Israeli strikes have

Israel was rejecting negotiations.
Israel said it launched the already put strain on its difficult relations with Damascus, the de facto ruler of Lebanou, with attacks on Hizbollah in the absence of any effort by Syria or which it had been holding peace talks since 1991. Lebanon to rein in the militants. The talks between Syria and The present conflict appears to Israel have been effectively stal-led since December, with Israel have changed the unwritten

rules of engagement, with broader attacks now involving civilians as well as soldiers.

ago which killed 58 people. Syrian radio said Damascus was still committed to the peace process, but the attacks showed

Europe today

Cold air will spread across centra Europe from the north. Near the front there will be rain with snow in the Alps. the front in Poland, the Czech Republic and eastern Germany. The North Sea countries will be mostly dry with some sun, but strong north-eas keep temperatures cool. The British Island will be mainly dry. High pressure will but northern Spain and southern France will have isolated showers.

Five-day forecast

Cold air from northern Europe will move towards south-eastern Europe during the next few days, italy and the Balks can expect thunderstorms accompanied by heavy rain, which will move into Turkey early next week. The North Sea countries and southern Scandinavia will remain sunny but windy.



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